

## 1 dead, 30 hurt in Venezuela train crash

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

**CHARALLAVE, Venezuela (AP)** — Two commuter trains collided in a tunnel outside Caracas on Thursday, killing one person, injuring about 30 and leaving frightened passengers gasping for air in the dark, officials said.



Rescue workers remove the body of a passenger who died in a commuter train collision, near Charallave, outside of Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday Sept. 29, 2011. Two commuter trains collided in a tunnel outside Caracas on Thursday, killing at least one person, injuring about 30.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

One train suddenly braked due to an apparent malfunction and another crashed into it from the rear, causing the first to derail, Transportation Minister Francisco Garces said on state television. Officials said a packed train coming in the opposite direction was able to stop before colliding with the others, averting a possible disaster. The crash apparently cut power in the tunnel between Caracas and the suburbs of Los Valles del Tuy. □

## Euro-Pass



*Germany keeps alive hopes for euro's future*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reacts after she casts her vote about the eurozone bailout fund at the German parliament Bundestag in Berlin, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. German lawmakers are expected to approve new powers Thursday for the eurozone bailout fund in a major step toward tackling the bloc's sprawling sovereign debt crisis.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)  
Page 2



# Strauss-Kahn, French accuser meet face-to-face



**Tristane Banon, the French writer who claims former IMF chief Dominique Strauss Kahn tried to rape her in 2003, looks on prior to a television interview at the TV news broadcast by French TV station TF1, in Boulogne Billancourt, outside Paris, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. Dominique Strauss-Kahn met in a face-to-face confrontation earlier Thursday with Tristane Banon, as the two were questioned jointly by investigators at a police station in Paris, deciding whether to pursue the case.**

(AP Photo/Eric Feferberg, Pool)

**ELAINE GANLEY**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Dominique Strauss-Kahn has met in a face-to-face confrontation with a Frenchwoman who

says he tried to rape her, but the woman claimed he refused to apologize or even look at her during the session with investigators. Investigators questioned

the former International Monetary Fund chief and Tristane Banon on Thursday to help them decide whether to pursue charges of attempted rape brought by the 32-year-old woman. Banon claims that Strauss-Kahn attacked her during an interview for a book in 2003. Strauss-Kahn calls the claims imaginary and slanderous. Banon said in an interview with TF1 TV station that "he kept repeating it's imaginary." She said that Strauss-Kahn emanated "arrogance" and "coldness" during the meeting. "I thought he would excuse himself. He didn't even look at me," Banon said.

Still, she said the meeting was a "first victory" for her. Strauss-Kahn made his only public appearance since returning to France less than two weeks ago on the same show, and he has not made himself available to reporters since. Banon requested the one-on-one meeting, which is sometimes used in France to help officials decide if a case is worth pursuing, with Strauss-Kahn. The two did not speak to reporters as they arrived separately at

the police facility and refused comment when they left. Strauss-Kahn quit as IMF head and saw his chances for the French presidency evaporate after a New York hotel maid accused him of attempted rape in May.

The U.S. case was later dropped amid questions about the maid's credibility, but the maid, Nafissatou Diallo, has filed a civil suit. Strauss-Kahn claimed Monday he has diplomatic immunity and asked a New York court to dismiss the lawsuit. French accuser Banon repeated her

intention to do likewise if Paris prosecutors decide not to go forward with a criminal case against him. One challenge for Banon's case, which was filed after Strauss-Kahn's May arrest in New York, is that the incident in question happened eight years ago. Banon has said that Strauss-Kahn invited her to an empty apartment for the book interview, and they ended up tussling on the floor, with the politician trying to open her jeans and bra and putting his fingers in her mouth and underwear. □



**Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, 2nd right, leaves a police station after a one-on-one meeting with writer, Tristane Banon, who accuses him of attempted rape, in Paris, France, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. Other people are unidentified.**

(AP Photo/Mathieu Cugnot)

# Germany keeps alive hopes for euro's future

Continued from Front

**MELISSA EDDY**

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany has kept alive hopes that the 17-nation euro currency can survive the sprawling debt crisis when lawmakers in Europe's largest economy voted overwhelmingly in favor of expanding the powers of the eurozone's bailout fund.

Thursday's vote strengthened Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right coalition, which had struggled to win support from a bloc of rebellious members, and could bolster her ability to negotiate new European crisis measures. While many investors and experts believe new steps will be required in Europe, such as letting Greece write off more of its debt pile, Germany's



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel reacts during the debate about the eurozone bailout fund at the German parliament Bundestag in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.**

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

approval of the fund's new powers and scope was necessary to avoid a new bout of massive market turmoil. "The support of the Bundestag is an important step for stabilizing the eurozone," Michael Kemmer, head of Germany's Bank Federation, told the news agency dapd. "With that, they have set a course that leads out of the debt crisis."

The €440 billion (\$600 billion) fund will be able to buy government bonds and lend money to banks and governments before they are in a full-blown crisis, making Europe's response to market jitters more rapid and pre-emptive. Germany, which pays the lion's share of European bailouts, became the 13th member of the eurozone to support the expansion of the rescue fund, the so-called European Financial Stability Facility, or EFSF. Cyprus and Estonia also passed the proposed expansion on Thursday. Austria's parliament is widely expected to pass the measure on Friday, the same day Germany's upper house of parliament is set to finalize Thursday's vote, while the Netherlands is expected to approve it in the first week of October.

The biggest remaining hur-

dle is the final country to vote — Slovakia — where the government will not have enough support to pass it if the leader of the junior coalition Freedom and Solidarity party follows through with threats to vote against the fund's expansion. Its parliament is to vote later in October. In Berlin, 523 lawmakers in parliament, the Bundestag, voted in favor of expanding German participation to guarantee loans of up to €211 billion, compared with €123 billion so far. Eighty-five voted against it and three abstained. "It was a strong statement of Angela Merkel's position. She has the backing and the support of the coalition and she is able to negotiate on the European level," Peter Altmeier, the parliamentary whip for Merkel's Christian Democrats, said after the

tally was announced. Markets appeared calmer even before Thursday's votes, following weeks of turbulence triggered by uncertainty over Germany's position on the fund. The euro also traded slightly higher. "The overwhelming majority in the Bundestag is a good sign and will hopefully mark a step change in German commitment to bringing the spiraling crisis under control," said Sony Kapoor of the Re-Define economic policy think tank. The lingering problem, however, is that investors are resigned to the fact that Greece will have to default — that is, impose tougher losses on its bondholders. French President Nicolas Sarkozy will meet with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou in Paris on Friday to discuss the debt crisis, the president's office said. □





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## Guard: Jackson doc collected vials before call

**ANTHONY McCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — One of Michael Jackson's bodyguards had barely stepped into the singer's bedroom when he heard a scream. "Daddy!" Jackson's young daughter cried. Nearby, the singer lay motionless in his bed, eyes slightly open. His personal doctor, Conrad Murray, was trying to revive him when he saw that Jackson's eldest children were watching. "Don't let them see their dad like this," Murray said, the first of many orders that bodyguard Alberto Alvarez testified Thursday that he heeded in the moments before paramedics arrived at Jackson's home in June 2009.

What happened next — after Alvarez said he ushered Jackson's eldest son and daughter from the room — is one of the key pieces of prosecutors' involuntary

manslaughter case against Murray.

According to Alvarez, Murray scooped up vials of medicine from Jackson's nightstand and told the bodyguard to put them away. "He said, 'Here, put these in a bag,'" Alvarez said.

Alvarez complied. He placed an IV bag into another bag, and then Murray told him to call for an ambulance, Alvarez said. On the third day of the trial, prosecutors tried to show that Murray, who has pleaded not guilty, delayed calling authorities and that he was intent on concealing signs that he had been giving the singer doses of the anesthetic propofol.

Alvarez said he thought Murray might be preparing to take the items to the hospital, but didn't question him.

The bags never made it to the hospital, and prosecutors claim Murray repeat-



**Kai Chase, Michael Jackson's personal chef testifies during Conrad Murray's involuntary manslaughter trial in downtown Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. Murray has pleaded not guilty and faces four years in prison and the loss of his medical license if convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Michael Jackson's death.**

(AP Photo/Al Seib, Pool)

edly lied to emergency personnel and did not tell them he had been giving Jackson doses of the drug as a sleep aid.

If convicted, Murray, 58, could face up to four years in prison and lose his medi-

cal license.

Defense attorney Ed Chernoff questioned whether there was enough time for Alvarez to shield Jackson's children, survey the room and stow away the drugs in

the brief period that phone records show he was in the home before calling emergency responders.

The bodyguard insisted there was, telling the attorney, "I'm very efficient, sir." Chernoff was not convinced, questioning whether 30 seconds was enough time for the dramatic sequence to play out. Alvarez assured him it was.

The defense attorney also challenged Alvarez's recollection, asking whether the collection of the vials happened after paramedics had come and whisked Jackson to a nearby hospital. Alvarez denied it happened after he called emergency services.

Chernoff questioned why Alvarez didn't tell authorities about Murray's commands to bag up the medication immediately after Jackson died, but instead waited until two months after the singer's death. □

## Police: 3 soldiers admitted to US home invasion

**TIM TALLEY**  
Associated Press

**LAWTON, Oklahoma (AP)** — Three soldiers from an Army post admitted under police questioning that they carried out a home invasion in which four people were shot and wounded, a detective said. The three Fort Sill soldiers — a fourth is charged with being their getaway driver — told investigators that they were at the home of a friend, Heather Smith, and that they told her they were going to rob her next-door neighbor's, Lawton police Det. Brenna Alvarez said in a sworn affidavit filed Tuesday in Comanche County District Court.

Pfcs. Kevon McLaren, 22, Richard Daly, 24, and Claude Byrd II, 27, each face conspiracy, robbery and kidnapping charges, and McLaren, who witnesses said fired the

shots, faces additional charges of shooting with the intent to kill and burglary. A fourth soldier, Pfc. Jared Berman, 22, is accused of helping them flee and is charged with being an accessory.

All four soldiers were being held in the Comanche County Jail — McLaren on \$2 million bond, Daly and Byrd on \$1 million each, and Berman on \$45,000 bond.

Online court records indicated that each of the soldiers pleaded not guilty to the charges on Tuesday before Special Judge Joe B. Reeves. Records indicate that none of the soldiers had attorneys.

Smith, 20, was arrested Wednesday and is charged with lying to police and being an accessory after the fact. She pleaded not guilty Thursday during a hearing before Reeves, who set bond at \$75,000, according to court records. □

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# Land deal with U.N. would fill gap in Manhattan

LISA W. FODERARO

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**NEW YORK** – For at least a decade, the United Nations has coveted a playground just south of its landmark tower, where it would like to construct a new building.

For just as long, city and state officials have longed to fill in the largest remaining gap in the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway,

quired, the U.N. Development Corp. could begin a land-use review for its new tower, which could be no taller than the 505-foot Secretariat Building. It would pay the city at least \$65 million for the parkland, which, in technical terms, would be “alienated.”

Once the new tower was built, the United Nations, which has been renting 1 and 2 United Nations Plaza

hattan. We're in bad economic times. I just don't see any money appearing on the horizon for something like this.”

The city would build the northern portion of the esplanade first, with the \$65 million it would receive for Robert Moses Playground. That would allow it to take advantage of existing pilings in the water, saving tens of millions of dollars on

site,” said Micah Lasher, the city's chief lobbyist in Albany, the state capital.

Alternatively, the United Nations could build on its own campus.

If it did so, it would be exempt from zoning laws and could avoid the city's uniform land-use review procedure, which puts major building projects under a microscope.

“The U.N. could decide to build on their North Lawn,” Krueger said. “The community gets another large building – somebody other than Tudor City gets impacted – but there's no funding at all for improvements to park space or a new esplanade.”

That is little consolation for residents of Tudor City, a cluster of neo-gothic apartment towers near the United Nations.

There is also opposition from groups critical of the United Nations, particularly the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Anti-United Nations sentiment in the state Legislature helped quash a similar plan several years ago.

“We're not doing this deal for the benefit of the United Nations,” said Brian Kavanaugh, a state assemblyman who represents Manhattan's East Side. “We're doing this deal, if we do it, for the benefit of our community and New Yorkers.” □



A portion of the vacant Con Edison Pier on the East River, just south of the United Nations Plaza in New York, July 26, 2011. Elected officials are on the verge of signing an agreement that would allow the U.N. the vacant land for a new building and also allow the city to finish the largest remaining gap in a mile-long East River esplanade.

from 38th to 60th Streets on the East River, but have not had the money.

Now, in a series of real-life Rubik's Cube moves, elected officials are on the verge of signing an agreement that would create a framework for both sides to get what they want. The United Nations would take part of Robert Moses Playground for its new building, while the city would end up with enough cash to finish an esplanade for the 32-mile Greenway – and a replacement playground. In July, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation that gave the city and state governments until Oct. 10 to agree to the terms of a deal.

If the agreement, or memorandum of understanding, is signed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the heads of the Assembly and the Senate, as re-

from the city at below-market rates, would move its offices out of those buildings or begin paying market rents. Selling those buildings would provide the rest of the money for the esplanade.

Some area residents, especially those in Tudor City, have blasted the plan, saying a new skyscraper, at First Avenue and 41st Street, would wall them off from the East River. But for some officials and other East Side residents, the swap could help realize their long-held dream of waterfront access.

“It is a very rare occasion where I would ever find myself supporting the alienation of open space in my district,” State Sen. Liz Krueger said. “But we think mathematically this is a win. It helps New York City make good on its commitment to a green ring around Man-

hattan. The portion of the esplanade from 41st to 53rd Streets would be paid for by the sale of 1 and 2 United Nations Plaza, which could yield hundreds of millions of dollars, to be split between the city and the esplanade project.

Even if the memorandum is signed by Oct. 10, there is no guarantee that the United Nations will commit to the deal. Negotiations between elected officials have included the U.N. Development Corp., a city-state public-benefit corporation that handles the United Nations' real estate needs. But while there is every expectation that the United Nations would want the playground site, the organization is not party to the memorandum.

“In the past decade, it has repeatedly expressed interest in consolidating its operations on this particular

## Huntsman cuts back to focus on New Hampshire

JEFF ZELENY

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When Jon M. Huntsman Jr. began his Republican presidential bid, he opened his office in Florida to signal that his campaign would be a national effort. Four months later, a lack of money has forced a reversal: He is shuttering his headquarters to focus solely on the New Hampshire primary.

The Huntsman campaign, seeking to get ahead of a grim fundraising report at the end of the third quarter, said Thursday that it was scaling back its operation and moving from Orlando, Fla., to Manchester, N.H., as part of what advisers called a “course correction.” Donors urged Huntsman to make the change to salvage his candidacy.

It is the latest in a series of major campaign adjustments for Huntsman, a former Utah governor who has struggled to gain traction in the Republican nominating contest. The decision, which was delivered to staff members Thursday afternoon, is a nod to the political reality facing his candidacy.

“This move will ensure that we have the resources necessary to win the first-in-the-nation primary,” said Matt David, the campaign manager for Huntsman. “Success in New Hampshire is vital for our campaign to have the momentum we need to succeed in South Carolina, Florida and the states that follow.”

The changes were an acknowledgment that the only plausible way forward for Huntsman is to focus entirely on New Hampshire, where he has shown movement in recent polls, while Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and other candidates compete in multiple places.

Huntsman, who served as ambassador to China in the Obama administration, is trying to capitalize on the unsettled fight in the Republican nominating contest.

He is seeking to present himself as a leading voice on foreign policy who has advocated for a swift end to the war in Afghanistan, as well as trying to distinguish himself as a moderate in a field that has tilted toward the right of the political spectrum. □

(Ty Cacek/The New York Times)



# New York farmers find flood plain a two-edged sword

LISA W. FODERARO

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Like many other growers in the Hudson Valley, John Gill's grandfather established his farm along the banks of a creek – in his case, the lower Esopus in Hurley, N.Y. – because the land was so fertile, with topsoil penetrating 10-30 feet into the earth.

The fertility is due to a flood plain. But the geological blessing of such a plain can change, in a matter of hours, into calamity, as Gill saw this week on the family farm, established in 1937, which sits at the base of the Catskill Mountains. More than a third of his 1,500 acres of sweet corn and other vegetables, which usually end up in the produce aisle of the ShopRite chain and on the menu at Blue Hill, among other places, was destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene.

"I had some fields under 10 feet of water," he said. "You couldn't see a stalk." From the Hudson Valley to areas farther north, along the Mohawk River and Schoharie Creek, New York growers, many of whose farms have been in the family for generations, were dealt a devastating blow by the storm, which dumped heavy rain on the region. Some farmers, who were without power and hobbled by disabled equipment, were not even able to assess the full extent of the damage.

State and local officials said the storm destroyed dozens of farms and crippled many others by killing livestock, submerging crops, washing away barns and buckling nearby roads. The onslaught came at the worst possible time, with farmers in the midst of harvesting a year's worth of labor. In some spots, orange orbs were eerily visible underwater during flyovers by state officials – a vestige of the season's pumpkin crop. "Clearly, it's not good," said Darrel J. Aubertine, the commissioner of the state's Department of Agriculture and Markets. "I've been involved in agriculture my entire life, and there



Anastasia Rikard outside the aftermath of her home following tropical storm Irene in Prattsville, N.Y., Aug. 29, 2011. Rikard was inside her home in when the house, weakened by flooding from Irene, tipped over on its side.

(Noah S. Rosenberg/The New York Times).

have been times when the weather has wreaked havoc on livestock and farms, but I don't think I have ever seen anything on this scale here in New York."

Representatives of farmers' markets in New York City said that shoppers would feel the effects throughout the fall. "There will be farmers they've known for years who might not be bringing product," said Michael Hurwitz, director of the greenmarket program at GrowNYC, a nonprofit group.

On Gill's farm, in Ulster County, workers began picking corn in late July, so

about two-thirds of his crop had already been harvested when the storm hit. Still, he estimated his crop losses at more than \$1 million, adding that he does not have sufficient crop insurance because it is too expensive.

"I'm going to be very intimate with my banker this winter," he said.

At Davenport Farms, in nearby Stone Ridge, the cantaloupes were submerged, while the corn crop had been blown down by strong winds. Even though the owner, Bruce Davenport, may be able to salvage some of his

corn, he now worries about plant disease.

"It moves around in the water and can infect a huge area," said Davenport, whose ancestor Isaiah Davenport founded the farm in 1840.

In the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys, where dairy farms dot the landscape, there were reports of cows being swept downstream in some places. State officials said there were clearly livestock losses, but were reluctant to provide an estimate. "We're still in the first stage of the assessment," Aubertine said.

Other farmers whose cows survived were unable to get feed or milk truck pickups, because of washed-out roads. □

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# EPA is longtime favorite target for Perry

JOHN M. BRODER  
KATE GALBRAITH  
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Gov. Rick Perry of Texas has built a political career running against Washington, and no agency more symbolizes what he considers the meddlesome and economy-choking evils of the federal government than the Environmental Protection Agency. Perry's conservative views on business costs, states' rights, job creation, energy policy and global competitiveness – the core of his governing philosophy – are illuminated most vividly in his clashes with the EPA over issues like pesticide regulation and global warming. From his earliest days as head of the Texas Department of Agriculture to his current campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Perry has struck a consistent anti-regulatory chord. He brags that he has significantly reduced air pollution over his decade-plus tenure by working with busi-



**A petroleum refinery along State Highway 225 in Pasadena, near Houston, Sept. 16, 2011. Environmental Protection Agency officials and independent analysts outside government said that Texas Gov. Rick Perry is claiming credit for improvements in air quality brought in large measure by the very federal laws he has resisted and railed against, and that air pollution in Texas remains worse than in nearly every other state.**

(Michael Stravato/The New York Times)

nesses and does not need new overbearing mandates from environmental nannies in Washington. But EPA officials and more independent analysts outside government said that Perry was claiming credit for improvements in air quality brought in large measure by the very federal laws he has resisted and railed against, and that air

pollution in Texas remains worse than in nearly every other state. "His constituents are benefiting from the Clean Air Act that the EPA is enforcing," said Janice E. Nolen, assistant vice president for national policy at the American Lung Association. "It's happening in Texas, but not only in Texas, which tells us that it's federal action that

is responsible."

David E. Adelman, professor of environmental law at the University of Texas Law School, said the state had made progress in reducing pollution but still had a long way to go.

"For the most part, Texas has lowered its toxic emissions, but so has essentially every other state in the country," he said, referring to airborne toxins like benzene and butadiene. "The key point to recognize is that Texas started so much higher than everyone else." Catherine Frazier, a Perry campaign spokeswoman, said in an emailed statement, "If elected president, the governor's energy priorities will be centered around scaling back the EPA's intrusive, misguided and job-killing policies, which will empower states to foster their own energy resources without crippling mandates and open the doors for our nation to pursue and strengthen an all-of-the-above energy ap-

proach."

Frazier said that Texas had achieved large reductions in pollution by following its own path and asserted that some federal actions were driven by politics rather than science.

Perry used more colorful language this month in addressing a Tea Party group in Florida.

"Somebody has to tell the EPA that we don't need you monkeying around and fiddling around and getting in our business with every kind of regulation you can dream up," he said. "You're doing nothing more than killing jobs. It's a cemetery for jobs at the EPA."

The main environmental battles of his governorship have centered on air pollution. Texas, with its large presence of oil refineries, chemical plants, cement kilns and other dirty industries, has struggled with emissions of both toxic pollutants and smog-forming compounds. □

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## Swingin': creating some of that new black magic

STEPHEN HOLDEN

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In the unlikely event that a modern version of Frank Sinatra's Rat Pack restores "Mad Men"-era lounge singing to the forefront of pop fashion, Seth MacFarlane shows potential to compete for the title New Chairman of the Board, or at least a latter-day Dean Martin.

Known as the creator of "Family Guy," MacFarlane, 37, turns out to be a devotee of the American Songbook.

In "Seth MacFarlane: Swingin' in Concert," on the Epix Channel on Friday, MacFarlane sings a dozen traditional pop songs (many of them obscure) with a 39-piece big band, including strings, arranged and conducted by Joel McNeely. Sara Bareilles joins him on two numbers.

All the songs are included on MacFarlane's just-released album, "Music Is Better Than Words."

More than Martin, the crooner whom the suave, self-assured MacFarlane resembles is Steve Lawrence. Like Lawrence, he is vocally relaxed, has perfect pitch and plays it cool even when swinging hard.

Under MacFarlane's cherubic facade is a streak of mischief. Because he is a great mimic with a storehouse of cartoon voices developed for animated characters, you're bound to wonder to what degree his crooning voice is a kind of impersonation. Like Lawrence, MacFarlane keeps emotional involvement in lyrics at arm's length.

At the same time, his fun-loving geniality is never condescending. He is invested in what he sings. Discussing "It's Easy to Remember," he notes that lyricist Lorenz Hart could "utterly paralyze



An undated handout photo of Seth MacFarlane recording his new album, "Music Is Better Than Words." MacFarlane, known as the creator of "Family Guy," shows that he is also a singer devoted to the American songbook in "Swingin' in Concert" on the EPIX Channel on Friday night.

(EPIX via The New York Times)

you with regret," then adds a depressed alcoholic but because of it." The presence of Michael Feinstein respectfully that Hart "was wrote a lot of great songs

— who introduces MacFarlane, calls himself a "MacFarlane-aholic" and jokes that he is encroaching on his territory — certifies MacFarlane's seriousness.

His saucy between-song comments are only slightly milder than his jibes as a Comedy Central roast master (most recently of Charlie Sheen).

"Don't think of this as the music your grandparents listened to," he says, "but as the music your grandparents listened to while they were making your parents." In his postscript to "The Night They Invented Champagne," he observes that the song, from "Gigi," is "about a grown man dating a 15-year-old, so basically 'Gigi' is R. Kelly for white people." □



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# Syrian regime supporters pelt US envoy with eggs

By **BASSEM MROUE**

**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Angry supporters of President Bashar Assad's regime hurled tomatoes and eggs at the U.S. ambassador to Syria on Thursday as he entered the office of a leading opposition figure and then tried to break into the building, trapping him inside for three hours.

The Obama administration blamed the Syrian government for the attack in Damascus, saying it was part of an ongoing, orchestrated campaign to intimidate American diplomats in the country. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned the attack as "wholly unjustified."

Ambassador Robert Ford, an outspoken critic of



**Syrian women hold the national flag and protest in front of the Syrian embassy condemning the killing and torturing women in Syria by Bashar al-Assad's regime, in Amman, Jordan, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. An international human rights group is calling for a U.N. investigation into the possible role by Syrian security agents in the recent decapitation of Zainab al-Hosni, an 18-year-old Syrian woman, who is believed to be the first woman to die in Syrian custody since the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad began in mid-March.**

(AP Photo/Mohammad Hannon)

tack "unwarranted and unjustifiable," but said the U.S. had no plans to recall Ford from Damascus.

Trying to keep a low profile, Ford and his colleagues had parked about a block away from Abdul-Azim's office and walked to the building, where they were confronted by the crowd, according to Toner.

Abdul-Azim said Ford was inside his office when the Assad supporters tried to force their way in, breaking some door locks. Office staff prevented them from rushing in, but the ambassador was trapped inside for about three hours. Ford called the U.S. Embassy for help and alerted Syrian authorities to the situation, but Syrian security forces did not show up for more than an hour.

Syria's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that as soon as it was contacted by the U.S. Embassy regarding Ford, it called in security authorities, who "took all measures needed to protect the ambassador and his team and secured their return to their work in accordance with Syria's international commitments."

Speaking to The Associated Press while Ford was still trapped in his office, Abdul-Azim said: "Now that security forces are here, I believe his life is not in danger."

Scores of angry Syrians stood outside the building ready to pelt Ford again if stepped outside. Smashed eggs could be seen at the entrance as several policemen guarded the gate.

"We don't want him anywhere in Syria and if I ever see him I will throw whatever I am carrying at him," said 21-year-old university student Majd Mutlaq, standing outside Abdul-Azim's office with a bag of eggs and tomatoes. □

Assad's crackdown on the 6-month-old revolt against the regime, has angered Syrian authorities before by showing support for the uprising. The latest incident promises to raise tensions even further.

Ford came under attack by about 100 Assad supporters as he arrived for the meeting with Hassan Abdul-Azim, who heads the outlawed Arab Socialist Democratic Union party. Abdul-Azim is a strong critic of Assad's regime and was briefly detained by authorities earlier this year.

Such incidents are usually not spontaneous in Syria, and Thursday's attack came amid high tension between the two nations, as well as accusations by Damascus that Washington is inciting violence in the country.

The protesters were ready with eggs and tomatoes when the delegation arrived and threw them at

the Americans as they entered the building.

In Washington, the State Department said a rowdy, violent mob tried to attack Ford and several American embassy workers in Damascus. Spokesman Mark Toner said Ford and his colleagues were unharmed and are now safe. However, several heavily armored embassy vehicles sent to help extricate them from the situation were badly damaged with broken windows and dents when the same crowd hurled rocks, White House and State Department officials said.

"This inexcusable assault is clearly part of ongoing campaign of intimidation aimed at diplomats ... who are raising questions about what is going on inside Syria," Clinton said. "It reflects an intolerance on the part of the regime and its supporters."

White House spokesman Jay Carney called the at-



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# US senators call Libyans inspiration for world

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)** — U.S. Sen. John McCain called Libya's revolutionaries an inspiration to the world, singling out activists in Syria, Iran, China and Russia, Thursday as he led a Republican delegation to Tripoli. It was the most prominent American delegation to travel to the Libyan capital since the fall of Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

McCain, a former presidential candidate from Arizona, expressed confidence in Libya's new leaders but urged them to rein in armed groups and to press the hunt for Gadhafi, who has continued to try to rally supporters from his hiding place.

"I've dreamed of returning to a liberated capital of a free Libya ever since I visited Benghazi in April and our visit to Tripoli today has been exhilarating and hopeful," McCain said.

But he expressed concern about the proliferation of weapons and armed groups, saying it was important for the country's leadership "to continue bringing



**U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., left, Mark Kirk, R-Ill., second left, and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., right, react as John McCain, R-Ariz., center, speaks to reporters during a visit to Tripoli, Libya, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011. Four U.S. senators visiting Libya say they talked to the country's new rulers about the need for justice in the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing. The four are part of the highest-ranking American delegation to travel to Tripoli since Moammar Gadhafi was ousted last month.**

(AP Photo/Abdel Magid al-Fergany)

the many armed groups in this city and beyond it under the responsible control of its legitimate governing authority."

"It's also important to bring this war to a dignified and irreversible conclusion, to bring Gadhafi and his family and his fighters to justice, while ensuring that past wrongs do not be-

come a license for future crimes, especially against minorities," he said. Interpol placed another of Gadhafi's sons, al-Saadi, on the equivalent of its most-wanted list on Thursday, placing pressure on the government of Niger to surrender a man accused of overseeing bloody repressions. A Niger presidential spokesman has said al-Saadi Gadhafi is living under house arrest in the Western African country's capital, Niamey, after fleeing Libya earlier this month via the desert bordering the two nations.

Interpol has already issued red notices for Moammar Gadhafi and his son Seif al-Islam based on a request by the International Criminal Court. Both men have

been charged with crimes against humanity.

The four lawmakers, who also included Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Mark Kirk of Illinois and Marco Rubio of Florida, addressed reporters after meeting with the head of the National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, and other high-ranking officials from the group that is now governing Libya.

They also toured Martyrs' Square, formerly named Green Square and the site of frequent Gadhafi speeches, and visited a prison amid allegations of poor conditions and human rights violations by former rebels taking revenge on former Gadhafi supporters. □

## School threats spread to northern Mexico

**MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)** — Banners similar to those left by Mexican drug cartels appeared Thursday threatening to attack schools in three communities outside the northern Mexico city of Monterrey.

Similar banners and messages left near schools in the southern city of Acapulco led about 140 grade schools to close in late August.

But there was no immediate indication that the banners left in communities in the township of Santiago on the outskirts of Monterrey would affect classes there.

Santiago Mayor Vladimiro Montalvo Salas said he asked state and federal authorities to step up security in the township, but urged parents to continue sending their children to school.

Montalvo Salas said he hoped the banners were just a bad joke.

He said state police had taken down the banners, adding that it was unclear whether they contained any demands for protection payments as the messages in Acapulco did. Drug gangs are known to operate in and around Monterrey. Last year, Montalvo Salas' predecessor as mayor was killed.

Santiago was once considered a quiet, bucolic weekend getaway for Monterrey residents, drawn by the town's quaint colonial-style streets. But the violent Zetas cartel began operating in the area around 2010.

Elsewhere in Mexico on Thursday, the navy reported that marines had killed suspected cartel gunmen in a shootout in Veracruz state on Mexico's Gulf coast. □

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# Teller-ATM hybrid takes banking to rural India

VIKAS BAJAJ

© 2011 New York Times

**KOLAD, India** – Time was, banks employed armies of human tellers. Later, they replaced many of them with automated teller machines. Now, India is using a hybrid of the two – the human ATM – to expand banking to its vast rural population.

Swati Yashwant, a 29-year-old mother of one, is part of a growing legion of roving tellers intent on providing bank accounts to the nearly 50 percent of India's 300 million households that do not have them.

Using a laptop computer, wireless modem and fingerprint scanner, Yashwant opens accounts, takes deposits and processes money transfers for farmers and migrant workers in this small town 70 miles south of Mumbai, India's financial capital.



Swati Yashwant, right, a State Bank of India correspondent, takes digital fingerprints of Rajashri Nakati, a first-time banking customer, in the village of Kolad, India, Sept. 9, 2011. Indian banks are using a growing legion of roving tellers equipped with laptop computers, wireless modems and fingerprint scanners to expand banking to its vast rural population.

(Kainaz Amaria/The New York Times)

To reduce the risk of robbery or theft, no transaction by law may exceed 10,000 rupees (about \$212). And in practice, many amount to no more than a dollar or two. But with the bulk of India's population living in vil-

lages that have never had a bank branch, Yashwant, with her electronic devices, is a missionary of financial modernity.

Many Indians "don't know anything about banking," she said in her small office

here, which is decorated with a garlanded picture of Ganesh, the Hindu god believed to remove obstacles. "I want to open their accounts and help them understand banking."

Economists and policy makers say mobile agents like Yashwant – who also are employed in countries like Brazil, Mexico and Kenya – represent one of the most promising ways to help the rural poor save and protect their money. Many people in India who do not have bank accounts, for instance, buy gold necklaces or simply keep cash in their unlocked homes.

"This is something that could be powerful," said Abhijit V. Banerjee, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who wrote "Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty" with Esther Duflo.

The banking agents enable the poor to easily save money they otherwise might be tempted to spend, Banerjee said. And when times are lean, people could withdraw money they had saved, instead of borrowing cash at high rates of interest.

The accounts earn currently earn 4 percent annual interest, which is standard for savings accounts in India. There are no maintenance fees, or charges for deposits or withdrawals.

"It's true that this will not make them rich," Banerjee said, "but it will make them less likely to face starvation someday."

Yashwant is one of an estimated 60,000 of what Indian bankers call "business correspondents," who are not bank employees but earn commissions that the banks pay them for each transaction. □

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# Chile education talks begin despite distrust

**EVA VERGARA**  
Associated Press

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)**—Distrust and frustration loomed over Chile's education reform debate Thursday as student and government leaders began long-awaited negotiations while tens of thousands of protesters challenged police in the streets.

Both sides were angry over unmet demands after five months of protests that have shut down universities and some secondary schools, but they decided to begin talks anyway at the Education Ministry.

Outside, students kept protesting and several thousand broke away to clash with police, who used water cannons and tear gas. Organizers said as many as 100,000 young people marched in Santiago.

Officials said the two sides talked for more than two hours and agreed to meet again Wednesday to discuss student demands that the government provide free public education.

Giorgio Jackson, a representative for university students, said only that the "meeting was complex."

Strong differences re-



Chile's student leaders Camila Vallejo, left, and Giorgio Jackson, right, accompanied by other leaders, background, arrive at the Education Ministry building after deciding to return to talks with government officials about their unmet demands in Santiago, Chile, Thursday Sept. 29, 2011. Students are on strike demanding more state funding to improve and guarantee free quality education to all Chileans.

(AP Photo/Roberto Candia)

mained over the government's insistence that students return to classrooms, a demand that student leaders have rejected. President Sebastian Pinera has warned that students could lose their scholarships and place in school if classes do not resume.

"We're not going to do favors for those who don't return to their campuses," said Education Minister Felipe Bulnes, who participated in the negotiations.

Leaders of various university and secondary school students groups and the president of the teachers union also took part.

Later in the day, Pinera said the 2012 budget includes \$11.65 billion for education. He said that represented a 7.2 percent increase compared with a 5 percent rise for the total budget.

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# Technology is changing the once simple cookbook



This screenshot made on Sept. 21, 2011 shows the Cookstr.com website. Cookstr offers roughly 8,000 recipes from 16 major cookbook publishers, each of them sifted by a team of food-savvy "curators" who categorize them by variables such as ingredient, nutritional information, even taste and texture.

Associated Press

## MICHELE KAYAL

For The Associated Press  
With a box full of carrots and a hankering for something vaguely exotic, Mary-Claire van Leunen turned to her computer for a recipe. "I looked for 'Turkish carrots' and I found it easily, in fact I found half a dozen," said the retired Seattle software researcher. Everyone's done it, fired up a search engine to deal with that mound of parsley or a bumper crop of cucumbers. But van Leunen wasn't randomly appealing to the online universe. She was searching the recipes in her own cookbooks, the rough-

ly 2,000 volumes that line her shelves. Without ever cracking a single spine. "In the past, I would have gone to the Central Asian section of my books and gone through the indexes," says van Leunen. "I would have looked in two or three cookbooks, and wound up adapting something for fennel or something to the carrots." Today, the online cookbook indexing service called Eat Your Books lets her instantly search the index of nearly every cookbook she owns. When she finds the recipe she wants, the website tells her the book it's in. It's part of a

new wave of digital tools that are changing the way home cooks explore new recipes, revisit old ones and create satisfying meals.

Eat Your Books, launched nine months ago, boasts a library of 88,000 books with more than 2,000 indexed volumes. Users just tell the site which cookbooks they own, then they can quickly peruse the recipes of the chefs and authors they already trust. Likewise, the website Cookstr catalogues recipes from more than 500

books, once little more than digitized versions of cookbook content, have begun adding features that make the experience interactive and highly personal.

"It is completely feasible today that a mobile device will be the center of the connected kitchen and Cookstr wants to be at the center of that connected kitchen," says Cookstr chief executive officer Art Chang. Cookstr offers roughly 8,000 recipes from 16 major cookbook pub-

allowing buyers to build their own a la carte recipe collections.

And cooks seem to be responding to these new digital options. Cookstr has grown from 12,000 users when it launched nearly three years ago to roughly 250,000 unique visitors a month, Chang says.

Meanwhile, anticipation of the digital dining revolution has prompted designers of applications or "apps" — the programs that run on mobile phones and tablets such as the iPad — to add features that go beyond simple ingredient searches and shopping list creation to elements such as "push" notices that send daily recipes to your device, "shuffle" functions that create new menus from the same tranche of recipes, ingredient substitution options and comprehensive videos on tips and techniques. CulinApp, a Houston-based application development company, plans to offer products that couple cookbook content from well-known chefs and authors with high-definition video personalized to the individual user's preferences — cookbook meets on-demand cooking show. The company's just-released first app combines two-dozen recipes from baking expert Dorie Greenspan's bestselling cookbook, "Baking: From My Home to Yours," with comprehensive video of every step in every recipe.

Associated Press



This screenshot courtesy of CulinApp shows CulinApp's "Baking with Dorie." CulinApp, a Houston-based application development company, plans to offer products that couple cookbook content from well-known chefs and authors with high-definition video personalized to the individual user's preferences. Their just-released first app combines two-dozen recipes from baking expert Dorie Greenspan's bestselling cookbook, "Baking: From My Home to Yours," with comprehensive video of every step in every recipe.

Associated Press

chefs and cookbook authors and offers them to users — free of charge. And mobile applications and e-

publishers, each of them sifted by a team of food-savvy "curators" who categorize them by variables such as ingredient, nutritional information, even taste and texture. Want a chicken dish that's spicy, requires only one pot and has fewer than 500 calories per serving? Cookstr offers up 16 recipes, including West African chicken stew and a Thai green curry.

The company has extended the reach of this highly personal, on-demand approach to actual cookbooks, packaging the well-known "1-2-3" series of three-ingredient cookbooks from award-winning author Rozanne Gold into 32 different digital books for iPhones and iPads. Sold through Apple's iBookstore, recipes can be purchased in bundles of 10, 50 or 250,

from traditional cookbook page to a flowchart of ingredients and steps. The video can be consumed whole or broken into individual parts, called "spin view," depending on what the user wants. When the user finishes making the recipe, a timer function keeps track of the baking time.

"There are a lot of people out there who are intimidated by baking," says Laurie Woodward, founder of the online community Tuesdays with Dorie, which has spent the last four years baking its way through the hard-copy of Greenspan's cookbook. □

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*On the cusp of the High-Level Meetings of the United Nations*

## Aruba participates in Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

**ORANJESTAD / NEW YORK**

The 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure drew out tens of thousands of survivors and loved ones on Sunday, September 18th. Aruba participated in the race for a cure with a delegation consisting of Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports Dr. Richard Visser and a team from the Aruba Tourism Authority. Minister Visser took this opportunity to run with the world for the cure in New York just before his participation in the High-Level Meetings of the United Nations, where he presented the Aruba Declaration on Obesity, with special attention to childhood obesity. Visser is the first official representative of Aruba to speak at the United Nations High-Level Meetings in history. During this U.N. High-Level Meeting, world



leaders met to discuss world issues, including health with the Aruba Declaration as one of the points on the agenda.

This was also the first time that Non-communicable diseases have ever been discussed at this meeting and only the second time health issues have ever been discussed with the Aids epidemic being the first. Besides Obesity and the issues resulting like Heart Disease, Diabetes, and others; Breast Cancer is at utmost concern on a world level. "You see us here to-

day in New York funding so much of the local community. We have over 140 of these events throughout the world today and we are working in over 50 countries," Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen For The Cure.

Celebrities were on hand for the event as well, including actresses Gabrielle Union and Jill Eikenberry, a two-time breast cancer survivor, and singer Martha Wash, best known for her hit "It's Raining Men." Wash sang the national anthem for the race. □





# Expedia announces that more consumers choose Caribbean

Expedia, Inc., the world's largest online travel company and one of the most important partners for the Caribbean, released data today showing an increase in the number of consumers choosing to travel to the Caribbean islands over the past year. In all, more than 1.2 million consumers booked travel into the Caribbean during 2010 on the more than 100 Expedia® and Hotels.com® travel sites available worldwide. The majority of demand for travel into the Caribbean came from consumers in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France and Italy.

"This recent influx of travelers is good news for the Caribbean region and is a prime example of the value Expedia can deliver to hotels seeking to maintain consistent occupancy in their properties," said Demetrius Canton, Expedia director of lodging for the Caribbean. "By showcasing their properties on Expedia sites in 70 countries, our Caribbean hotel partners



have been able to reach an entirely new global audience of travelers and subsequently grow their business, which is what we're seeing now."

The company also shared insights showing that package offerings continue

to be a popular option for travelers, representing half of all bookings made into the Caribbean on Expedia sites over the past year. Not only are package bookings convenient for travelers, but they also represent an opportunity

for hotels to secure bookings farther out and with an extended stay period. In fact, the average booking window for travel packages booked on Expedia sites into the Caribbean is 65 days – nearly double that of a standalone booking.

Travelers booking packages into the Caribbean also stayed an average of 5.55 days, whereas travelers with a standalone hotel booking stayed only 3.24 days.

In addition to operating as an efficient marketing and distribution channel for the nearly 140,000 hotels Expedia works with on a global basis, the company also employs hundreds of highly-skilled market experts to act as consultants for hotels in the destinations Expedia serves. This counsel includes providing hotels with market level data and insights to develop an effective channel distribution strategy in accordance with the individual needs and characteristics of each property; as well as working closely with hotels to identify opportunities to participate in targeted marketing and promotional campaigns throughout the year to assist the property in achieving their desired revenue and occupancy goals. □

## Hi, I am Simba

I would like to introduce myself. I am one of the donkeys that find a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary organization. For a long time I roamed the island, but it became more and more difficult to find food. With increasing traffic, things got hazardous for donkeys. I used to have a girlfriend: a beautiful black donkey. But she got hit by a car in Noord and she did not make it. Friendly people fed me in their garden and called the Sanctuary organization and so I was taken to the sanctuary. Actually I am glad they took me in, as otherwise I would have still been roaming the island, looking for food. Not only traffic is a hazard for donkeys, but also wild dogs. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary. The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of ac-

tivities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! □





## 20 years of loyal service at Costa Linda Beach Resort



**PALM BEACH** - This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Costa Linda Beach Resort; along with that we'll also be celebrating 20 years in service of 12 loyal employees. It's a double celebration. The employees who are

celebrating their 20th Anniversary working here are: Rolando Valdes, Marlyn Maduro, Miryam Castillejo, Margarita Giel, Quintina Maduro, Sandra Inesia, Priscilla Gario, Bertha Lara, Maria Bermudez, Luzmila Medina, Lucy Suarez, Lucila Comejo.

They take our values, "Customer driven, happiness, integrity & continuous improvement", at heart. These 12 employees have

been with Costa Linda Beach Resort since it opened its doors in 1991, providing superb service to our Timeshare Owners and guests.

In honor of the 20 years of service of our employees, a celebration was held on Wednesday, September 28 at Mamuri's Restaurant. Costa Linda Beach Resort's mission is to continue being a World Class Timeshare Provider. □



## Divi Resorts proudly announces winner of the free week stay

**ORANJESTAD** - In the month of September 2011, DIVI Resorts began a contest where tourists can participate to win a free week accommodations with Divi Resorts. The winner has a choice of staying at any Divi Resort in the Caribbean.

This month's winner is Mr. Frank Marini from Monroe CT, USA, who participated in the contest at Little Switzerland.

Divi Resorts will continue with this contest every month and wishes their best to all participants. □



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**TIERRA DEL SOL** - On Saturday October 1st 2011 "The Forbidden Party" will take place at Tierra del Sol

Clubhouse. This will be an exclusive party starting at 10 pm till 3 am. What makes this event so attractive is that

besides the entertainment of international Dj Outkast and local band Tsunami there will be a 5 Hour Open

Bar. Also this evening we will be celebrating local media personality Michael Carty's birthday. This means that the amount of tickets that are available are very limited. Dj Outkast who will be performing in Aruba straight out of St Maarten is ready to hit Aruba with an amazing performance

to the lighthouse. This is the Tierra Del Sol Golf course. The only way to get tickets is to call local number 5944009 or 7326275. The open bar will start at 10 am and last till 3 am. This means you pay one price to enter and don't have to worry of constantly taking money out to pay for drinks.



starting at midnight. The local dj's i.e. Yeimy, Diablo and Brayen will also be performing this evening. The venue itself is a very exclusive location on the island where you party outdoors and have a view

There will also be a VIP area which includes access to the VIP lounge and waiter service.

Tierra Del Sol is located approximately 5 minutes from the high-rise hotel area. □

## Aruba enjoying the Piano Festival

**ORANJESTAD** - An enchanting, richly rewarding and quite unforgettable classical experience featuring some of world's most acclaimed musicians. This festival is probably the most important annual chamber music event in the Caribbean region. Held annually in September, the Aruba Piano Festival was established to enhance the cultural environment of Aruba by presenting internationally acclaimed classical musicians to audiences from Aruba and overseas. The natural beauty of Aruba along with its friendly people, wonderful climate and tropical ambience provides a unique backdrop for the festival's concerts and events. Entering its 5th year



in 2011, the APF has developed an international reputation for its distinguished artists and innovative programming across a range of chamber music styles. Besides the core chamber concert series, the festival has a number of other key components focusing on music and education.

Tickets are available at Da Vinci Academy (588.9926), Plaza Bookshop (582.1821). For more information go to:

[www.arubapianofestival.com](http://www.arubapianofestival.com) Featured Artists is Ian Weiss, who was born in New York City. Hailed as "one of the outstanding pianists of his generation" by legendary Czech pianist Rudolf Firkušný, he is "a poet" in the words of Brussels' Le Soir, whose playing, as was noted by The Daily Telegraph of London, "penetrates to the very core of the music". "[He projected] a sense of line resembling in many re-

spects the orchestral wizardry of Furtwängler", wrote Spectator Online. Mr. Weiss is indeed a throwback to an earlier age of free-thinking performing musicians. His background is unusually varied, having begun his studies on the classical guitar, receiving advice and encouragement, from the age of ten, of Andrés Segovia.

The genius of Maestro Segovia left its indelible mark

on his musical character and artistic development. Piano studies followed with, among others, Adlah Grossman, Sylvia Rabinof and Daniel Abrams, whose extraordinary inspiration led Alan to recognize his growing love for the piano and its repertoire, focusing solely on this instrument

from the age of twelve. David Saperton, the illustrious teacher of Cherkassky, Katchen and Bolet; son-in-law of Godowsky and assistant at Curtis to the legendary Josef Hofmann, served at a crucial point in Alan's pianistic development.

Under the guidance of Firkusny's deep musicianship he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Juilliard School. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



### With eye on clock, NBA owners, players seek deal

**BRIAN MAHONEY**

**AP Basketball Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — They don't have a deal yet, and they are just about out of time.

After some two years of on-and-off negotiations, that's about all NBA players and owners agree on. The gaps in their financial proposals have been so great that they sometimes decide it's best to just talk about something else.

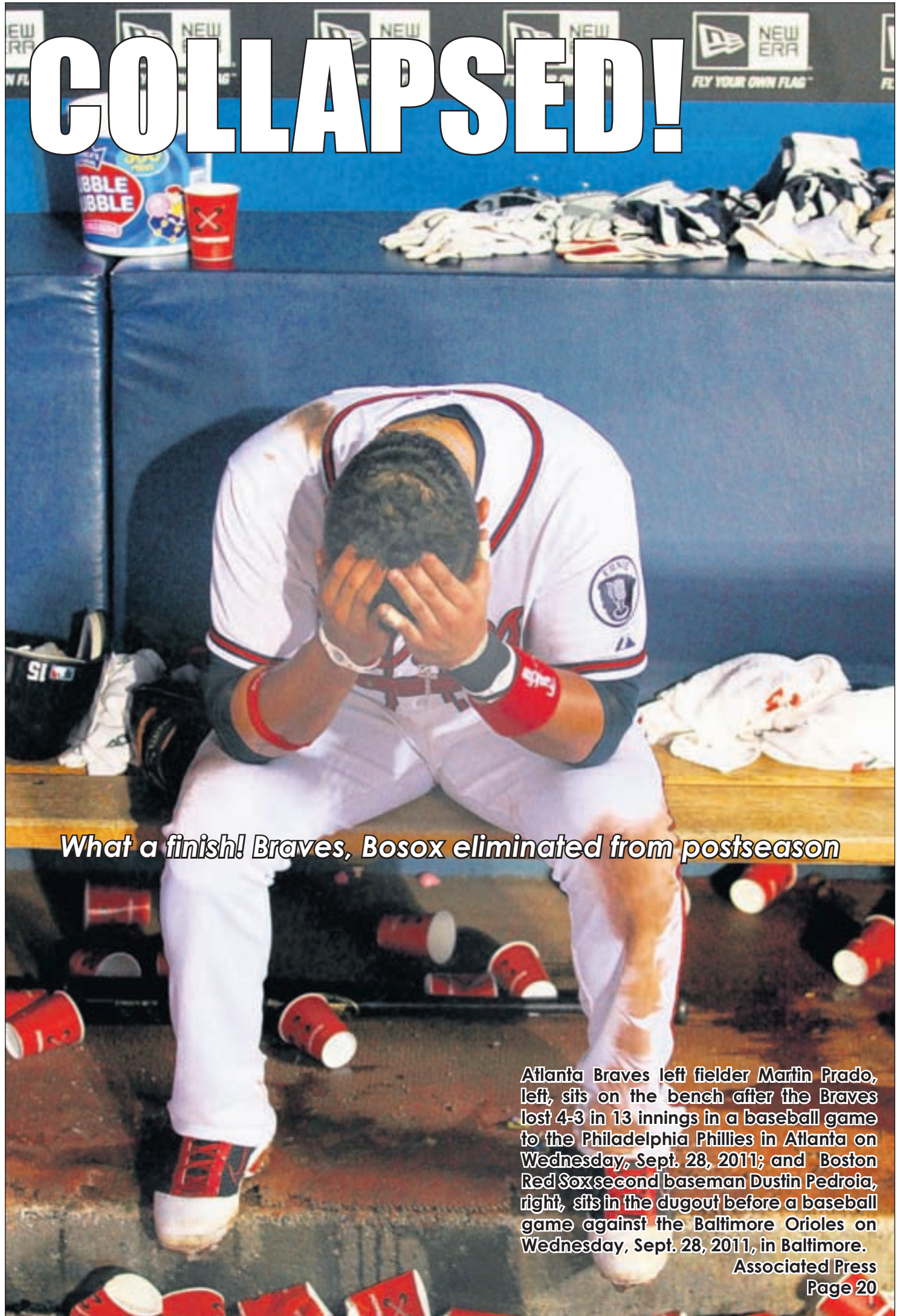
Now they have to figure it out quickly. Without at least getting very close to the framework of a new collective bargaining agreement this weekend, hopes of the 2011-12 season starting on time would be all but lost.

"We realize that the calendar, the clock, the watch, whatever you want to say, is running out in terms of starting our regular season on time. So we're going to try to get some things done this weekend and see what we can do," said the Lakers' Derek Fisher, president of the players' association.

The owners' labor relations committee and the union's executive committee — perhaps joined by some All-Stars — will meet Friday and have committed to keep talking throughout the weekend. Both sides have cautioned that bringing back the large groups after a series of discussions among smaller parties doesn't mean they are close, but rather that more voices are required to consider the crucial decisions.

There are 11 owners and nine players on the committees, including All-Star Chris Paul, who may try to bring along friends such as Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James that are scheduled to join him Saturday in a charity game in his hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

# COLLAPSED!



*What a finish! Braves, Bosox eliminated from postseason*

Atlanta Braves left fielder Martin Prado, left, sits on the bench after the Braves lost 4-3 in 13 innings in a baseball game to the Philadelphia Phillies in Atlanta on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011; and Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia, right, sits in the dugout before a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, in Baltimore.

Associated Press  
Page 20



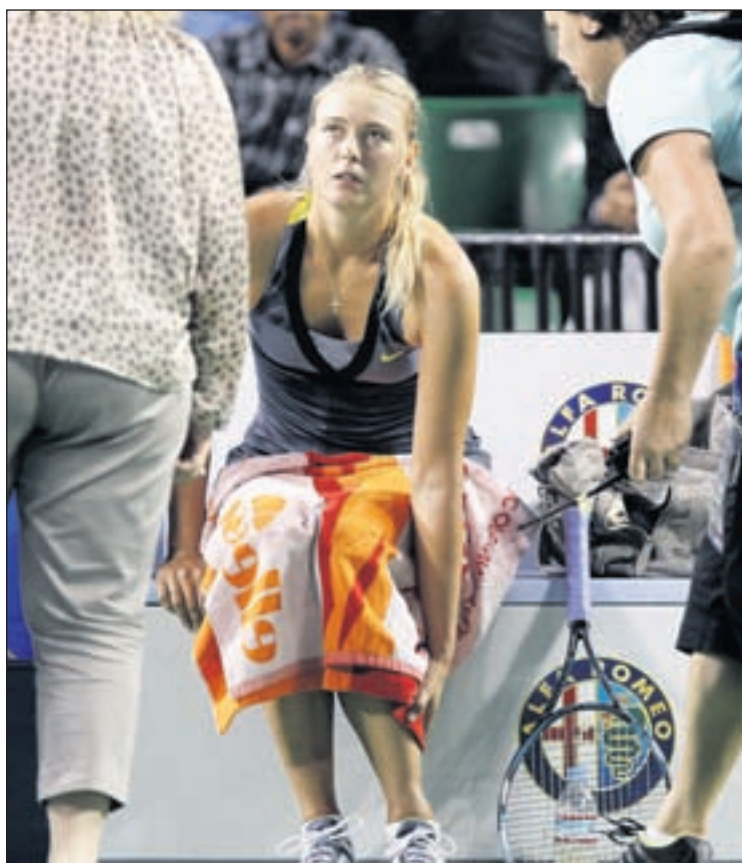
## 2nd-seeded Sharapova forced to retire in Tokyo

**JIM ARMSTRONG**

**AP Sports Writer**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Second-seeded Maria Sharapova was eliminated from the Pan Pacific Open on Thursday when she was forced to retire in the first set of her quarterfinal match against Petra Kvitova. With her Czech opponent leading 4-3 in the first set, Sharapova twisted her left ankle when serving in the eighth game. She limped to her chair and pulled out after seeing a trainer. "I hit a serve and then landed awkwardly on my left ankle," said Sharapova, who went to a hospital for an MRI. "I felt a sharp pain and next thing I knew I was on the floor. It swelled up immediately and I knew there was no way I could continue." Thursday's quarterfinal was a rematch of this year's Wimbledon final, where Kvitova beat Sharapova 6-3, 6-4 for her first major title. "It's sad because we were both playing so well," Kvitova said. "It was a great

match but I could see (the ankle) was really big. Hopefully, she will be OK." Kvitova will now face fourth-ranked Vera Zvonareva of Russia, who defeated Maria Kirilenko 6-3, 6-3, in Friday's semifinals. "I played her already three times, the last time in Madrid on clay when I beat her," Kvitova said. "She's a very good player. She has a great serve and hits the ball well so it will be a tough match." Zvonareva had five aces in the match and improved to 6-0 in head-to-head matches against the unseeded Kirilenko. "I'm really happy that my serve helped me today," Zvonareva said. "The first serve was good and my second serve even caused her some problems, and that made a big difference." Kirilenko knocked out U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur on Tuesday and beat 12th-seeded Ana Ivanovic on Wednesday, but struggled with her serve against Zvonareva and was



Russian Maria Sharapova touches her left leg during her quarterfinal match against Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic in the Japan Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.

**Associated Press**

broken three times. "Maria is a great player and a great fighter, and proved it by beating two tough opponents on her way to the quarterfinals," Zvonareva said. "There is no secret to beating her. I just tried to make some shots that caused her some

discomfort and was able to do that." Also, third-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus beat seventh-seeded Marion Bartoli 7-5, 6-0 to reach the last four. She will next face Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat Kaia Kanepi 6-2, 7-6 (7). □

## Sky's Fowles picked WNBA's top defensive player



Chicago Sky's Sylvia Fowles goes up for a shot against Indiana Fever's Tangelia Smith during the third quarter of a WNBA basketball game in Rosemont, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011. Indiana won 88-80. **Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Chicago Sky center Sylvia Fowles was selected the WNBA's defensive player of the year for the first time on Thursday. Fowles received 19 of 40 votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters. She edged Indiana's four-time defensive player of the year Tamika Catchings (18). Connecticut's Tina Charles and Fowles' Sky teammate Epiphanny Prince received the remaining votes. Fowles was second in the league in rebounding at 10.2 per game, including a league-best 7.3 defensive boards. She was also tops with 2.0 blocks per game. The former LSU star finished third in scoring (22.0), becoming the second player in WNBA history to average 20 points and 10 rebounds in a season — joining Chamique Holdsclaw, who had 20.5 and 10.9, respectively, for Washington in 2003. Catchings — who was selected as the MVP this year and was picked the top defensive player in 2005, '06, '09, '10 — and Fowles also headlined the league's all-defensive team in balloting among the league's 12 head coaches. They were joined as first-teams selections by Seattle's Tanisha Wright, Atlanta's Angel McCoughtry and Minnesota's Rebekkah Brunson. □

## NBA

**Continued from Page 17**

It's doubtful the presence of the superstars makes much impact — Anthony acknowledged this week that "we really don't know how powerful we are at this moment" — but opening up the room beyond the top negotiators has backfired before. Talks broke down last time the large groups were together on Sept. 13, but Commissioner David Stern said he and union executive director Billy Hunter believe it's necessary to summon them again with the Nov. 1 opener at stake. "If we're at a period of enormous opportunity and great risk, the larger the group that is assembled to focus on that, the better from my perspective," Stern said. "And I think Billy and I are on the same page on this." They aren't, though, on major salary and system is-



In this Aug. 31, 2011, file photo, Billy Hunter, left, executive director of the NBA players union, appears in New York after representatives of the owners and the players met. NBA owners and players have met for about 5½ hours and plan to resume negotiations Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011. NBA Commissioner David Stern, right, talks to the media after taking part in talks between negotiators for the basketball league's owners and players, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011 in New York. **Associated Press**



sues.

Owners are seeking a more restrictive salary cap system, while the players favor the current one that allows teams to exceed it through use of certain exceptions. Players fear a harder cap system would eliminate fully guaranteed contracts for

all but the top players.

And that may be the easier one. Owners want a significant reduction in the players' guarantee of basketball-related income, which was 57 percent in the previous deal. Players proposed lowering it to 54.3 percent be-

fore the lockout began July 1, though Hunter indicated this summer they were prepared to go lower if owners would agree to leave the cap system untouched. Union officials have said the league's proposals would have them in the mid-40s. Each percentage point equates to at least \$30 million. Players totaled \$2.1 billion in salaries and benefits players earned this season. "We just haven't been able to get to a space, at least the formal proposals that have been on the table, get us to place where we can agree on a deal at this point," Fisher said. "And so economically, we've tried to kind of leave that one floating and deal with some system issues and see what we can carve out there, but we're working at it." Hunter has said players have instructed union leadership that they would rather sit out than accept a bad deal. □



# APNewsBreak: Congress wants to talk HGH with NFL

By **ANTONIO GONZALEZ**  
AP Sports Writer

Congress is stepping up its efforts to push the NFL and its players toward an agreement on testing for human growth hormone.

In letters obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday, leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee invited NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith and the chief executive of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency to a meeting on Capitol Hill. The letters were signed by Chairman Darrell Issa, a California Republican, and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, a Democrat from Maryland and ranking member of the committee. Blood testing for HGH was part of the collective bargaining deal struck between the league and players this summer — but only if the union agreed to the methods. The players'

union has asked for more information about the process used by the World Anti-Doping Agency and questioned the safety and reliability of the test. The NFL would be the first major professional sports league to implement HGH testing. "We believe the league and its players remain best positioned to implement an HGH testing regime, but concerns have been raised about the status of these efforts," Issa and Cummings said in the letters. "The purpose of this meeting is to understand the concerns of the players and the league and to strongly convey our universal interest in protecting the health of millions of younger athletes across the country."

With talks over HGH testing at a stalemate, it seemed it was only a matter of time before Congress took action. However, the invitation is voluntary and not a subpoena. No date has

been set for the meeting on performance-enhancing drugs.

Goodell sent a letter to Smith before the start of the regular season reiterating the league's eagerness to begin HGH testing. At that time, the NFL also notified teams that no HGH testing will be conducted because the players' association could not agree to the terms. The league has long disputed the union's claims that the test is not valid.

"We are disappointed in the union's failure to follow through on its commitment to HGH testing to ensure the integrity of competition on the field, protect the health of NFL players and send the right message to young athletes," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in a statement to the AP. "We appreciate the committee's interest and look forward to cooperating with the members on this matter." WADA handles drug testing for the



National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell gestures during the Beyond Sport Summit Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

Olympics and is largely accepted as the gold standard for worldwide drug testing. Smith has said he's concerned that it does not take into account the different types of bodies and conditioning routines of football players.

HGH is naturally occurring in the body. The isoform

test used by WADA since 2004 — and which became more widespread in 2008 — is designed to detect synthetic HGH by measuring the ratio naturally occurring in the body against a population test.

A letter also was sent to Travis T. Tygart, the CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. □



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# Rays clinch AL wild card with stunning rally

**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)** — The Tampa Bay Rays clinched the American League wild card with a stunning rally Wednesday, overcoming a late seven-run deficit and then beating the New York Yankees 8-7 on Evan Longoria's home run in the 12th inning. The Rays' win came four minutes after Boston blew a one-run lead in the ninth at Baltimore and lost 4-3. The Red Sox, who held a nine-game lead over the Rays in early September, and Tampa Bay began the final day of the regular season tied for the wild card.

Longoria hit a three-run homer in the eighth that capped a six-run burst. Pinch-hitter Dan Johnson's two-out, two-strike solo homer in the ninth tied it for Tampa Bay.

Longoria won it with a one-out shot barely inside the left-field foul pole.

Tampa Bay will open the playoffs Friday at Texas.

## \*Orioles 4, Red Sox 3

At Baltimore, the Red Sox completed their September collapse in horrific and historic fashion, falling out



Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria, right, celebrates with teammates after his home run in the 12th inning against the New York Yankees during a baseball game early Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays defeated the Yankees 8-7 and won the AL wild card.

Associated Press

of the playoff chase by allowing two ninth-inning runs against Baltimore.

The Red Sox held a nine-game lead in the AL wild-card race after Sept. 3, but a 7-19 swoon left them tied with Tampa Bay entering the final day of the regular season. The Rays rallied for

an 8-7 win over the New York Yankees in 12 innings. The Orioles won the game in the ninth against Jonathan Papelbon (4-1), who struck out the first two batters before giving up a double to Chris Davis. Nolan Reimold followed with a double to score pinch-run-

ner Kyle Hudson, and Robert Andino completed the comeback with a single to left that Carl Crawford couldn't glove.

Boston became the first team to miss the postseason after leading by as many as nine games for a playoff spot entering September, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

## \*Rangers 3, Angels 1

At Anaheim, California, Mike Napoli broke a tie in the ninth inning with his fourth homer in two games as Texas finally clinched home-field advantage in the AL division series.

Napoli, the longtime Angels catcher, also homered in the second inning as the Rangers set a franchise record with their 96th victory — including six straight heading into the postseason. With 14 wins in their final 16 games, Texas (96-66) held off Detroit (95-67) for the right host the wild-card winner at Rangers Ballpark on Friday.

Gil Velasquez drove in the only run for the Angels, who were in playoff contention until Monday. Los Angeles

(86-76) lost six of its last seven.

## \*Tigers 5, Indians 4

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera singled and doubled, wrapping up the American League batting title as Jhonny Peralta hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth for Detroit.

Cabrera entered the day hitting .343, five points ahead of Michael Young of Texas and Adrian Gonzalez of Boston. He raised his average another point against the Indians, and the other two were unable to catch him. Peralta hit his 21st homer of the season off Vinnie Pestano (1-2) after Ryan Perry (2-0) allowed Cleveland to tie it at 4 in the top of the eighth.

Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his 49th save in 49 chances. The AL Central-champion Tigers will start the playoffs on the road against the Yankees on Friday night.

## \*Twins 1, Royals 0

At Minneapolis, Trevor Plouffe's RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning helped Minnesota stave off a 100-loss season. □

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## MLS Roundup

# Sporting KC beats Crew 2-1

## KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP)

— Sporting Kansas City reclaimed Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference lead after Columbus defender Julius James conceded an own goal in the Crew's 2-1 loss Wednesday. In the other match, Marco Pappa scored three goals to lift the Chicago Fire to a rare road victory with a 3-0 win at Real Salt Lake.

Kei Kamara of Sierra Leone converted a penalty in the 15th minute to open the scoring for Sporting after Chad Marshall brought down C.J. Sapong in the area. Kansas City now has 44 points, two ahead of Houston and three ahead of the Crew. Columbus lost its third straight and fifth from its last six matches.

Emilio Renteria equalized for the Crew in the 34th minute after gathering a Robbie Rogers pass.



Columbus Crew forward Andres Mendoza, left, and Sporting Kansas City defender J?lio Cesar watch the ball get away during an MLS soccer game Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press

The own goal came in the 74th minute when James headed a Kansas City throw-in back and over keeper Will Hesmer.

A record setting crowd of 20,762 at Sandy, Utah watched as Pappa scored in the 9th, 36th and 75th minutes to give Chicago

only its second away win of the season.

The loss spoiled the return of midfielder Javier Morales, who entered the match as a substitute in the 60th minute. It was the first match for Morales since suffering a gruesome ankle injury in May. □



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## Cardinals earn NL wild card when Braves lose

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Chris Carpenter and the St. Louis Cardinals completed one of the more remarkable comebacks in baseball history, clinching the National League wild card Wednesday with an 8-0 win over the Houston Astros and a later loss by Atlanta.

The Cardinals got their playoff spot when the Braves fell to Philadelphia 4-3 in 13 innings. St. Louis trailed Atlanta by 10½ games on Aug. 25. The Cardinals won 23 of their last 31 games.

The Cardinals will open the postseason on Saturday at NL East champion Philadelphia.

Carpenter (11-9) struck out 11 and allowed two hits in his 15th career complete-game shutout as St. Louis kept up its improbable September charge. The Cardinals won for the 23rd time in 31 games, having trailed Atlanta by 10½ games on Aug. 25. Houston took a 5-0 lead in the first inning against Brett Myers (7-14).

### \*Phillies 4, Braves 3, 13 innings

At Atlanta, closing pitcher Craig Kimbrel surrendered the tying run in the ninth inning and Hunter Pence came through with a two-out, run-scoring single in the 13th to give Philadelphia the win that ended Atlanta's season without a trip to the playoffs that looked like a certainty just a few weeks ago. The game ended more than an hour after St. Louis routed Houston 8-0 to claim at least a share of the wild card. The Cardinals earned it outright when David Herndon earned his

first career save by getting Freddie Freeman to hit into a season-ending double play.

### \*Brewers 7, Pirates 3

At Milwaukee, Zack Greinke capped a perfect season at home to help Milwaukee clinch home-field advantage in the first round of playoffs. Carlos Gomez, Corey Hart and Jonathan Lucroy homered for the Brewers, who set a franchise record with 96 wins and open an NL division series against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Miller Park on Saturday.

If the NL Central champions had tied with NL West winner Arizona in the standings, the Brewers would have started the playoffs on the road. Ryan Braun's pursuit of Mets shortstop Jose Reyes for the NL batting title ended early. He went 0 for 4 to finish at .332. Reyes hit .337. Greinke (16-6) allowed two runs in six innings to finish 11-0 in 15 starts at home, where the Brewers were a major league best 57-24. Gomez hit a three-run shot with two outs in the fourth off rookie starter Jeff Locke (0-3) that put Milwaukee ahead 5-1.

### \*Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 5

At Phoenix, Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer to become the first Dodger in 70 years to lead the NL in home runs and RBIs. Arizona locked up its NL West title last week and will open the NLDS on the road against Milwaukee. The Diamondbacks were quiet in the season finale until the bottom of the ninth when Cole Gillespie

hit a grand slam off Ramon Troncosco and Henry Blanco followed with a solo shot.

Kenley Jansen ended the rally, getting the final two outs for his fifth save.

Kemp hit his 39th homer in the seventh to pass Milwaukee's Prince Fielder for the league lead and finished with 126 RBIs. Dodgers infielder Eugenio Velez made history when he grounded out as a pinch-hitter in the seventh to set a modern-day record for non-pitchers with his 46th straight hitless at-bat.

### \*Mets 3, Reds 0

At New York, Jose Reyes bunted for a base hit in the first inning against Cincinnati and was lifted for a pinch-runner but it was enough to give him the NL batting title with a .337 average.

Ryan Braun, who was at .334 heading into Milwaukee's regular-season finale against Pittsburgh, went 0 for 4 and finished at .332. Miguel Batista (5-2) pitched a two-hitter for his 11th complete game, his first since July 19, 2006, for Arizona. He allowed a one-out single to Edgar Renteria in the first and leadoff double to Chris Heisey in the second.

Mike Baxter hit his first major league homer, a two-run shot off Edinson Volquez (5-7) in the sixth. Nick Evans singled in a run in the fourth. The Mets their third straight losing season at 77-85, two more losses than last year. Cincinnati also had a disappointing season, winding up at 79-83 after winning the NL Central last year with a 91-71 record. □



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Chris Carpenter (29) and catcher Yadier Molina (4) celebrate the Cardinals' 8-0 win over the Houston Astros in a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011, in Houston.  
Associated Press

  
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# In praise of school nurses

**LYNDA SHRAGER**

© 2011 Albany Times Union  
In my house, the school professional who got the biggest present at the holidays was not the teacher but the school nurse. When you have a kid with a chronic illness, you learn how important the nurse is to your child's success in school. The National Association of School Nurses identifies

health and wellness policies for the school. They act as a liaison and often a case manager between a child with special needs and the teacher, doctors, family and other relevant school and community personnel, and are integral in the development of Individualized Education Plans. And, if all this weren't enough, since they are usu-

children with autism and various mental health issues is also on the rise, leading to increased responsibilities for the nurse." I am exhausted just thinking about the huge role the school nurse plays in the overall well-being of students. Imagine my surprise to learn that this health professional is not mandated to be in each school building.



**When you have a kid with a chronic illness, you learn how important the nurse is to your child's success in school. The National Association of School Nurses identifies several core roles, including directing medical care to all students, treating illness, administering medications and the management of chronic illness.**

several core roles, including directing medical care to all students, treating illness, administering medications and the management of chronic illness. The school nurse provides leadership for the provision of health services in the school, including development of emergency and disaster plans. He or she is responsible for state-mandated documentation, including the tracking of body mass index and immunizations, plus screenings for hearing, vision and scoliosis on every child. The school nurse promotes a healthy environment by monitoring and containing infectious diseases, participating in the creation of programs to prevent violence, bullying and suicide, and delivering educational programs to students, teachers and parents. School nurses are leaders in the development of

ally the only health professional in the school, they are often called upon to treat faculty and staff. Could you just imagine a principal missing third period to lie down in the nurse's office? According to Marie Eoff, past president of the Capital Region School Nurse Association, a school nurse must have strong assessment skills, as she or he is "running a pediatric triage unit autonomously." The National Association of School Nurses continues to champion a federal law that would mandate a ratio of 750 students to one nurse throughout the country. "There are many more medically fragile kids in school, including those needing gastric tube feedings, diabetes management, monitoring of seizure disorders, asthma and life threatening food allergies," notes Eoff. "The number of

Worse yet, many school districts look to this position to be cut as a budget saving effort. The American Academy of Pediatrics believes having a full-time nurse in every school "is the best means of ensuring a strong connection with each student's medical home. School nurses, as part of a coordinated school health program, contribute to meeting the needs of the whole child and supporting their success in school". The new school year is now under way. Mom's Rx is to educate yourself about your district's policy on school nurses. Get to know yours:  
— Don't wait until a medical emergency erupts. Stop in and say hello to your school nurse.  
— Remind your student that the nurse is there and is ready to help with both physical and mental health issues. □



## U.S. scientists look into mood swings with Twitter

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**

**AP Medical Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Twitter confirms it: People tend to wake up in a good mood and are happiest on weekends. Beyond the celebrity chatter and mundane ruminations about breakfast, Twitter is offering scientists a peek at real-time, presumably little-filtered human behavior and thoughts. Cornell University researchers turned to the microblog to study mood and found a pretty consistent pattern.

The researchers analyzed English-language tweets from 2.4 million people in 84 countries, more than 500 million of the brief, conversation-like exchanges sent over two years. They used a computer program that searched for words indicating positive mood — happy, enthusiastic, brilliant — or negative mood — sad, anxious, fear.

What they found: Unless you are a night owl, a positive attitude peaks early in the morning and again near midnight, but starts to dip midmorning before rising again in the evening.

You might think, going to work and related hassles like traffic explain that pattern. After all, there was more positive tweeting on the weekend, even though the morning peak of happy tweets occurred two hours later, probably because people slept late.

Not quite. Work-related stress may play some role, but it cannot explain why that same midday dip occurs on the weekend, too, said lead researcher Scott Golder, a Cornell graduate student. Instead, the pattern probably is due to the effects of sleep and our 24-hour biological clock, the so-called circadian rhythms that signal when it is time to sleep and to wake, Golder and Cornell sociologist Michael Macy reported. Their study appears in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*.

The researchers also examined tweets in the United Arab Emirates, where Friday and Saturday are considered the weekend instead of the Western Saturday and Sunday. Sure enough, they found the same daily pattern, even though the workday tends to begin earlier there than in the West, and the same weekend pattern.

Previous research has linked the biological clock and mood, but was based mostly on small studies of American college students. There are cautions about studying Twitter postings, too: Their authors tend to be younger than the general population and may be more affluent, better educated and different in yet-to-be-discovered ways.

Still, the study's bigger message is about the scientific potential of social media, Macy said.

Other researchers have turned to Twitter to study political campaigning, to blog postings and Twitter feeds to study emotions, and to Google searches of flu symptoms to predict outbreaks.

"It illustrates a new opportunity for doing social and behavioral science in ways that were really unimaginable even five years ago," Macy said. □



# With Kindle Fire, Amazon's digital ambitions burn

RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Amazon's unveiling of the Kindle Fire tablet computer sends a bright-hot message: The online retailer is ready to rival iPad maker Apple in an effort to be the world's top digital content provider.

It may sound odd coming from a company that pioneered online sales of physical products, selling its first book, Douglas Hofstadter's "Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies: Computer Models of the Fundamental Mechanisms of Thought," in 1995. But since it first entered the digital market in 2006 with its video download store, Amazon has bet consumers will pay for high-quality digital content.

In addition to the millions of actual items it sells, which range from toys to toothbrushes, Amazon's trove of digital content now includes more than 1 million

e-books, 100,000 movies and TV shows and 17 million songs. This is about 1 million fewer songs than iPad maker Apple Inc. sells, but more than twice as many e-books and many thousands more TV shows and movies. Amazon.com Inc. CEO Jeff Bezos is confident that its content is what will help the Kindle Fire do better than others who have trotted out tablets.

"The reason they haven't been successful is because they made tablets. They didn't make services," CEO Jeff Bezos said in an interview after his company unveiled the tablet at a New York media event Wednesday.

Bezos, the 47-year-old former Wall Street money manager, built Amazon on exactly this sort of confidence. He started the company on the theory that a Web-based book store would resonate with consumers, since it seemed like



In this file photo taken Sept. 28, 2011, the Kindle Fire is shown at a news conference, in New York. The e-reader and tablet has a 7-inch multicolor touchscreen and will go on sale for \$199 on Nov. 15.

Associated Press

## Enrique Iglesias spices up Zynga's 'CityVille'

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Pop stars are lining up to make their debut in Facebook games from online game maker Zynga. First came Dr. Dre and Lady Gaga. Next week, an avatar of singer Enrique Iglesias will join "CityVille," Zynga's most popular title. Starting Tuesday, "CityVille" players on Facebook will be able to interact with Iglesias's character when he visits their cities. They'll get to collect items the singer is known for and watch pre-views of his newest music video. Zynga declined to give financial terms of the deal or say whether it plans more celebrity integrations, citing the fact that it is in a typical "quiet period" before its planned initial public offering. The San Francisco-based company filed registration papers in July for an IPO, and it's expected to make its public debut this fall. Iglesias said his team approached Zynga with the idea for a game inte-

gration and was involved from the beginning on the design and deciding what characters could do. They can collect virtual hats, boots, bling and a speed boat — representing the time Iglesias lived in Miami and owned one.

"I thought the fans would get a kick out of it," he said. "CityVille," which is available on Facebook and the fledgling Google Plus, lets players build up and run virtual cities complete with farms, buildings and all sorts of infrastructure one would find in a real city.

The game is free to play; Zynga makes money by charging for virtual items players use to decorate their cities and to get ahead in the game. The Iglesias tie-in will be available only on the Facebook version of the game.

"It's the first time Zynga has had such an entertainer being an integral part of the game," said Scott Koenigsberg, director of business strategy for "CityVille

the easiest way to browse millions of titles at once.

He was right. The company grew rapidly and Amazon began trading publicly in

May 1997, despite never having turned a profit. It took five more years — and the addition of product categories like CDs, DVDs

and consumer electronics — before the online retailer reported any net income. These days, Amazon consistently reports strong growth: In the most recent quarter, it earned \$191 million on \$9.91 billion in revenue.

Amazon has long toiled in Apple's shadow. With the arrival of Apple's iPod digital music player, which first came out in 2001, Apple figured consumers would be willing to pay for legal, high-quality digital music they could download to the devices. Apple became a major player early on, making deals with major record labels to sell digital tunes through its iTunes Store in 2003. Soon the iPod became more multimedia-savvy: Apple added TV shows in 2005 and movie downloads a year later.

Amazon soon entered the market itself, rolling out its own digital video downloading service in 2006 and music downloading service a year later.

It was in 2007, though, that things really heated up. That's when Amazon rolled out its first Kindle e-reader, upending the book market once again by turning the focus from costly paper books to electronic ones that could be delivered quickly and cheaply to customers on a reading device. □



In this March 25, 2011 photo, Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias performs at a central London venue. Starting Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, "CityVille" players on Facebook will be able to interact with Iglesias's character when he visits their cities.

Associated Press

at Zynga. Iglesias said he has played "CityVille" — once. He has an addictive personality and, since being inseparable from Nintendo's "Mario Bros." as a child, has stayed away from video games, he said. "I know that if I start playing it, I won't get any work done and I'd just be on it all the time," he said. "CityVille" players have made the game the most popular application on Facebook, ahead of a social version of "The Sims" from Electronic Arts. According to

research firm AppData, "CityVille" has more than 71 million monthly users, compared with more than 62 million for "The Sims Social." Facebook, meanwhile, has more than 800 million monthly users worldwide. In addition to the Iglesias avatar and special items, the game will feature a new single featuring rapper Pitbull, "I Like How It Feels." Players will also be able to unlock a building called "Euphoria Arena" — referring to Iglesias' current tour and album. □



# More bad news for bank customers: Debit card fees

By **CANDICE CHOI**

**AP Personal Finance Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bank of America will start charging debit-card users \$5 a month to pay for purchases. The move comes as the cards increasingly replace cash and as banks look for ways to offset the loss of revenue from a new rule that will limit how much they can collect from merchants.

Paying to use a debit card was unheard of before this year and is still a novel concept for many consumers. But several banks have recently introduced or started testing debit card fees. That's in addition to the spate of other unwelcome changes checking account customers have seen in the past year. Bank of America will begin charging the fee early next year.

Bank of America's announcement carries added weight because it is the largest U.S. bank by deposits.

The fee will apply to basic accounts, which are marketed toward those with modest balances, and will



In this July 17, 2009 file photo, a customer uses a Bank of America ATM in Charlotte, N.C. Bank of America plans to start charging customers a \$5 monthly debit card fee. The fee will be rolled out starting early in 2012.

be in addition to any existing monthly service fees. For example, one such account charges a \$12 monthly fee unless customers meet certain conditions, such as maintaining a minimum average balance of \$1,500.

Customers will only be charged the fee if they use

their debit cards for purchases in any given month, said Anne Pace, a Bank of America spokeswoman. Those who only use their cards at ATMs won't have to pay.

The debit card fee is just the latest twist in the rapidly evolving market for checking accounts.

A study by Bankrate.com this week found that just 45 percent of checking accounts are now free with no strings attached, down from 65 percent last year

and 76 percent in 2009. Customers can still get free checking in most cases, but only if they meet certain conditions, such as setting up direct deposit.

The study also found that the total average cost for using an ATM rose to \$3.81, from \$3.74, the year before. The average overdraft fee inched up to \$30.83, from \$30.47.

The changes come ahead of a regulation that goes into effect next month. Starting Oct. 1, the regula-

tion will cap the fees that banks can collect from merchants whenever customers swipe their debit cards. Those fees generated \$19 billion in revenue for banks in 2009, according to the Nilson Report, which tracks the payments industry. There is no similar cap on the merchant fees that banks can collect when customers use their credit cards, however. That means many banks are increasingly encouraging customers to reach for their credit cards, in hopes of reversing a trend toward debit card usage in the past several years.

An increasing reliance on credit cards would be particularly beneficial for big institutions like Bank of America, which have large credit card portfolios, notes Bart Narter, a banking analyst with Celent, a consulting firm.

"It's become a more profitable business, at least in relation to debit cards," Narter said. This summer, an Associated Press-GfK poll found that two-thirds of consumers use debit cards more frequently than credit cards. But when asked how they would react if they were charged a \$3 monthly debit card fee, 61 percent said they'd find another way to pay. □

Associated Press

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# Late-day rally sends stocks higher; Dow rises 143

CHIP CUTTER

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It was another day of big swings in the stock market.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 143 points Thursday. On its way there, it surged 260 points shortly after the opening bell, then turned mixed for much of the day. A burst of buying in the last half-hour of trading sent the Dow shooting higher again. Financial stocks had the biggest gains. Traders were relieved that Germany passed a measure to expand the powers of a regional bailout fund. That eased worries that U.S. banks could be buffeted by another bout of turmoil in Europe's financial system. Travelers Cos. Inc. and Bank of America Corp. led the Dow average higher.

Investors struggled to make sense of conflicting reports on the economy. First-time applications for unemployment benefits fell to a five-month low. The government also raised its estimate of economic growth

in the April-June period.

Other economic reports were weak. A trade group reported that chief executives of the nation's largest companies are more pessimistic than they were just three months ago. Also, fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in August, the second straight month of declines.

All of that contributed to another day of ups and downs on the stock market. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 143.08 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at 11,153.98. Travelers led the Dow with a gain of 3.2 percent; Bank of America was close behind, rising 3.1 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.34 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,160.40. Financial stocks rose 2.8 percent, the most of the 10 company groups that make up the S&P.

Technology companies lagged the rest of the market. The Nasdaq composite index lost 10.82 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,480.76.

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. plunged 13.7 percent,

the most of any stock in the S&P 500, after the company cut its revenue and earnings forecast for the third quarter, saying it was having problems getting its chips made.

Retailers and other consumer discretionary stocks also tanked as investors avoided companies that would be most susceptible to an economic downturn. Netflix Inc. fell 11 percent, Tiffany & Co. fell 6.9 percent and Coach Inc. fell 6.1 percent.

Analysts said financial markets were likely to remain volatile until more questions were resolved about Europe's debt crisis and the U.S. economy. "Until we start to see more clarity on policy intervention, we'll continue to see this intraday, manic market reaction," said James Dailey, chief investment officer of TEAM Financial Managers Inc. The measure approved by German lawmakers to expand the region's bailout fund must be approved by all 17 countries that use the euro. □

# Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell sharply last week, an encouraging sign that layoffs are easing.

Weekly applications dropped 37,000 to a seasonally adjusted 391,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That's the lowest level since April 2 and the first time applications have fallen below 400,000 since Aug. 6.

Some of the improvement was due to technical factors related to the seasonal adjustment of the data, a Labor Department spokesman said. The spokesman also said some states reported higher applications in previous weeks due to

Hurricane Irene.

As a result, the drop "may not be as encouraging as it looks," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics. "Further falls will be needed before we can conclude a downward trend is underway."

Applications typically need to fall below 375,000 to signal substantial job growth. They haven't been that low since February. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell to 417,000, the first drop in six weeks. Most recent evidence shows the job market is sluggish and the economy is weak.

The economy expanded only 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter, the Commerce Department said in a separate report Thursday.

That's a mild improvement from last month's estimate of 1 percent growth.

Most economists expect growth will pick up a bit in the second half of this year, but not enough to lower the unemployment rate. A forecasting panel for the National Association for Business Economics predicts total growth for 2011 will be just 1.7 percent.

Consumers are reluctant to spend, with unemployment high, wages stagnant, and gas prices at about \$3.50 a gallon (92 cents a liter). Consumer confidence plunged in August to recessionary levels, after lawmakers battled over raising the government's borrowing limit and Standard & Poor's cut its rating on long-term U.S. debt. □



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

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Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20  
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Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00  
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Sun & Hol 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15  
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Mon - Thurs 4:35 / 7:00  
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Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:40

**CONTAGION**

Mon - Thurs 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30  
Fri 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:50  
Sat 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

**SHARK NIGHT 3D**

With Spanish Subtitles  
Mon - Thurs 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35  
Fri 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40  
Sat 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35

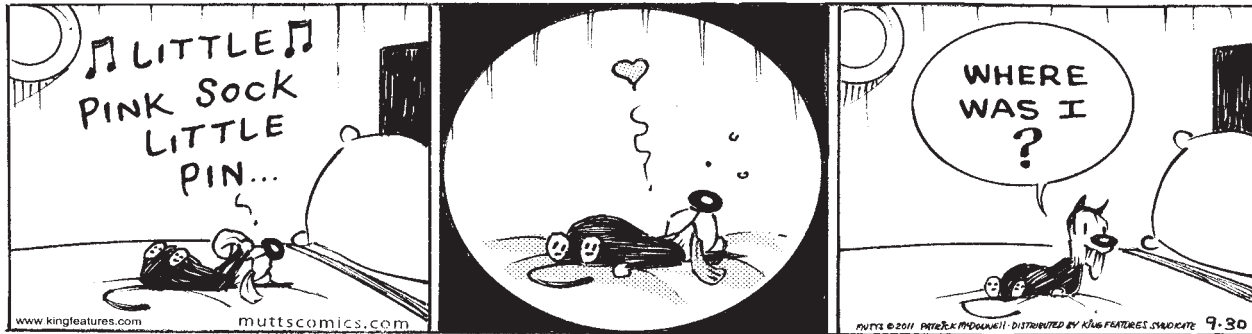
**COLOMBIANA**

Mon - Thurs 9:30  
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Sun & Hol 9:30

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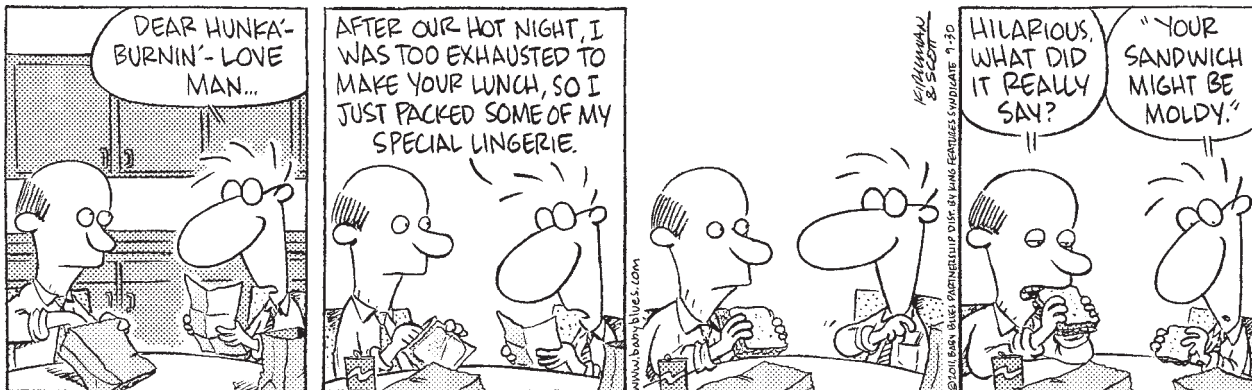
**Blondie**



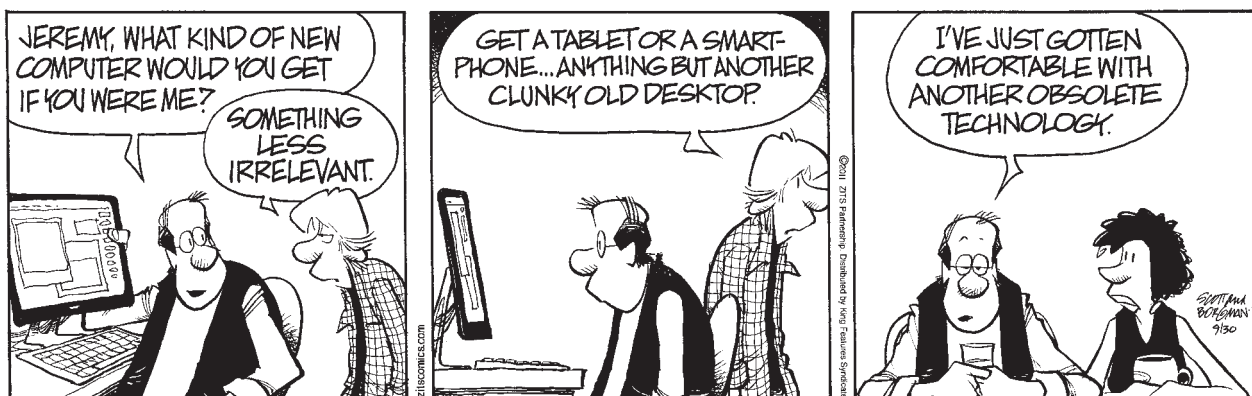
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

		4	8		2		3	
							6	7
9					3			
1						7		4
				5				
4		8						2
				3				9
8	6							
	1		2		6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	9	6	5	3	2	8	4	1
8	4	1	7	6	9	3	2	5
5	3	2	8	1	4	9	7	6
3	6	8	2	9	5	7	1	4
1	2	4	3	7	6	5	8	9
9	7	5	1	4	8	6	3	2
4	1	7	9	5	3	2	6	8
6	8	9	4	2	7	1	5	3
2	5	3	6	8	1	4	9	7

**ACROSS**

- Large
- Significant \_\_\_\_; partner
- Partial amount
- "Beehive State"
- Yearn for
- Prayer closing
- Brief note
- "Grimm's Fairy \_\_\_\_"
- Nourish
- Rehab patient's medication
- Colony builders
- Prehistoric home
- Spoil
- On fire
- \_\_\_\_ times; days of the prophets
- Male duck
- Gallant
- Be dishonest
- Thin coin
- Gumption
- Warsaw native
- Once across the pool
- Skeleton parts
- Yakety-yakked
- Forced to be a servant
- By leaps and \_\_\_\_; very rapidly
- "\_\_\_\_ to Billy Joe"
- Bodies of water
- Killer whale
- Progressive thinking
- Peruse
- King's decree
- Actor \_\_\_\_ Wyle
- \_\_\_\_ up; relax
- Vane direction
- Fence opening
- Winter toy
- Lock of hair
- Barbie's beau

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
						35				36			
34						38				39			
37													
40				41					42				
43			44						45				
								47					
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57					58			59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/30/11

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

I	S	N	T		R	O	A	D	S		C	R	O	W
S	P	A	R		O	W	L	E	T		L	A	M	A
L	A	V	A		M	E	L	E		A	J	A	R	
E	N	E	M	I	E	S		J	A	N	U	A	R	
				P	R	O		B	A	K	E	D		
S	H	A	L	E	S	O	Y		V	I	S	T	A	
L	O	B	E		G	E	L		H	E	A	T	E	R
A	G	O		R	E	C	I	T	E	S		A	R	E
C	A	D	D	I	E		V	O	L		L	I	S	A
K	N	E	E	S		R	A	M		T	I	R	E	S
				P	E	T	E	R		C	O	B		
O	P	P	O	S	E	D		G	A	T	E	W	A	Y
G	O	E	S		A	C	H	E	S		R	I	C	E
L	O	R	E		M	A	I	N	E		A	N	N	A
E	L	K	S		S	P	E	E	D		L	E	E	R

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9/30/11

**DOWN**

- One who sponges off others
- Article
- Sports event
- Group of eight piano keys

- Exchange
- Ring of light over a saint
- Get \_\_\_\_; take revenge
- Look like
- African excursion
- Dismal sign
- Encounter
- Finishes
- Flapjack
- Fogginess
- Drink made in a brewery
- Confuse
- Dennehy or Benben
- Nightstand items
- Imitated Ali
- Wading bird
- Chuckles or Bozo
- Felt sick
- Large city in England
- Nary a one
- Motion

- Halting temporarily
- Rotten
- Collins or Rivers
- Drunk
- Pullman beds
- Small religious groups
- Raw minerals
- Genuine
- In \_\_\_\_; lest
- Smell
- Critical; drastic
- Saturate
- Husband or wife
- Laying bird



# Today In History

**The Associated Press**  
**Today is Friday, September 30, the 273rd day of 2011. There are 92 days left in the year.**

**Highlights in history on this date:**

1399 - King Richard II of England abdicates in favor of Henry Bolingbroke, who led a rebellion of noblemen against him.

1568 - John III is proclaimed king of Sweden by the nobility after the deposition of Eric XIV.

1787 - Sailing ship Columbia leaves Boston on first voyage around world by American vessel.

1791 - Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" premieres in Vienna, Austria.

1846 - Dentist William Morton uses ether as an anesthetic for the first time on a patient in his Boston office.

1868 - Spain's Queen Isabella flees to France and is declared deposed.

1938 - Britain, France, Germany and Italy agree at the Munich conference to transfer the Czech Sudetenland to Germany while remaining frontiers of Czechoslovakia are guaranteed.

1942 - The Nazis advance in Stalingrad, Russia. Some 990 Russian planes are destroyed against 77 German losses.

1946 - International military tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, finds 22 top German Nazi leaders guilty of war crimes. Eleven are sentenced to death.

1949 - The Berlin Airlift, which delivers 2 million metric tons (2.3 million tons) of food and fuel to West Berliners while circumventing a Soviet blockade, comes to an end.

1954 - The first atomic-powered vessel, the submarine Nautilus, is commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

1955 - French delegates walk out after U.N. General Assembly decides to take up question of unrest in Algeria.

1958 - Soviet Union resumes nuclear testing.

1962 - Black American student James Meredith succeeds on his fourth try to



**Today is Marion Cotillard's birthday**

register for classes at the University of Mississippi.

1965 - Six of Indonesia's top army generals are kidnapped and killed in an abortive coup. Turmoil ensues, leading to the deaths of 300,000 communists and President Sukarno being replaced by General Suharto.

1966 - Republic of Botswana gains independence from Britain.

1971 - United States and Soviet Union sign pacts designed to avoid accidental nuclear war.

1978 - Scores of people, mostly civilians, are reported killed around Beirut in renewed fighting between Lebanese Christians and Syrian peacekeeping troops.

1984 - Egyptian court sentences 107 Muslim extremists to prison for attempting to set up Islamic regime after 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

1986 - The United States releases accused Soviet spy Gennadiy Zakharov, after the Soviets release U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff, whom the KGB accused of espionage.

1989 - Non-communist

Cambodian guerrillas claim capture of three towns and 10 other positions from government forces.

1990 - Soviet Union and South Korea open full diplomatic relations.

1991 - Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is ousted by the army.

1992 - Moscow banks distribute privatization vouchers as part of a reform program to turn millions of Russians into capitalists.

1993 - An earthquake rocks southwestern India, leaving more than 10,000 dead, 67 villages flattened and 120,000 homeless.

1994 - Saudi Arabia and five smaller Arab countries announce a partial lifting of their economic boycott of Israel.

1995 - Blind Egyptian cleric Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine other Islamic militants are convicted in New York for a plot to blow up New York City landmarks, including the United Nations.

1996 - Taliban rebels consolidate their hold on two northern provinces of Afghanistan.

1997 - Consolidating his power, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic ousts Belgrade's noncommunist mayor and pro-democracy directors of the city's television station.

1998 - Two hand grenades are thrown at Israeli security forces in a downtown square in the West Bank city of Hebron, injuring 11 Israeli troops and 11 Palestinian civilians.

1999 - A 7.5-magnitude quake rocks southern Mexico, toppling church towers and old homes in Oaxaca and shaking buildings in the capital. At least 27 people are killed and more than

120 others injured.

2000 - In his first news conference, Britain's Prince William criticizes a new book about his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, written by her former private secretary.

2001 - Democracy returns to Fiji's Parliament with 71 of its 72 lawmakers being sworn in for the first time since armed nationalists launched a coup 16 months earlier.

2002 - The 15 foreign ministers of the European Union vote to allow member nations to sign individual agreements with the United States giving U.S. soldiers and officials protection from the U.N. International Criminal Court.

2003 - The U.S. Justice Department announces it has begun a criminal investigation into allegations that President George W. Bush's administration leaked the name of a covert Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operative to columnist Robert Novak in July.

## Today's Birthdays:

Jean Perrin, French Nobel-prize winning physicist (1870-1942); Hans Geiger, German physicist (1882-1945); Deborah Kerr, Scottish actress (1921-2007); Truman Capote, U.S. author (1924-1984); Elie Wiesel, Romanian writer (1928--); Martina Hingis, Swiss tennis player (1980--); Eric Stolz, U.S. actor (1961--); Jenna Elfman, U.S. actress (1971--); Marion Cotillard, French actress (1975--).

## Thought For Today:

After three days without reading, talk becomes flavorless — Chinese proverb.

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## A black and white photograph of a white beetle, likely a scarab, resting on a dark, textured surface. The beetle is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing right. Its body is predominantly white with some darker, mottled markings on its elytra. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the beetle.



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## Anti-corporate music personified, in close-up

NATE CHINEN

© 2011 New York Times

**NEW YORK** – During one of many small logistical adjustments at Roseland on Wednesday night, Thom Yorke of Radiohead invited the crowd to picture a smoother, more elaborate show. The piano would rise out of a trap door, he suggested, instead of being wheeled across the stage. There would be no dead air. Somehow a giant inflatable pig would be involved. "That's show business," Yorke concluded in mock approval. "Until then, it's going to be like this." The crowd seemed fine with

and choppy, at least until the chorus, when Yorke sidled into his terse but radiant falsetto, his voice glowing over the room like a chandelier. If smallness was a subtext of Wednesday's show, it made sense: smallness is one way to understand "The King of Limbs," which clocks in at under 38 minutes and still manages not to cohere as a whole. It's an album seemingly intended for atomization, for absorption by the digital metabolism. (Do what you want.) It's also a meaningful departure from the immersive, unambiguous album-ness of "In Rainbows,"



Radiohead's Thom Yorke, center, performs at the Roseland Ballroom in New York, Sept. 28, 2011. The band performed the first of two unusually small-scale shows at Roseland Ballroom.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

those conditions – thrilled, actually. This was an intimate show by Radiohead standards, and one of only two on the band's visible horizon. (The other, at Roseland again, was scheduled for Thursday night.) And when Yorke stepped to the microphone for the next song, maracas in one hand, all delays were quickly forgotten. Against a brackish hum of synthesizers, he sang in a mode of conspiratorial surrender:

"I will shape myself into your pocket  
Invisible

Do what you want  
Do what you want"

The song was "Lotus Flower," a standout from Radiohead's self-released eighth album, "The King of Limbs," which dropped out of the ether early this year. And what sounded on record like a coiled contraption was made to feel darker

which the band served up in 2007, with a twist. (Pay what you wish.)

The show opened as "The King of Limbs" does, with "Bloom," a reverie propelled by something like refracted samba rhythm. Philip Selway, Radiohead's regular drummer, worked busily but stoically, and so did a second drummer, Clive Deamer, hammering at a bank of electronic pads.

Lending a third pair of hands on percussion was the band's lead guitarist, Jonny Greenwood, momentarily hunched over a snare drum and floor tom. The bassist Colin Greenwood, his brother, served as a movable anchor, shifting the emphasis bar by bar.

Pulse is another way to understand "The King of Limbs," and, by extension, this unfolding phase of Radiohead. □

## New York Film Festival beckons



Luna Mijovic in a scene from the 2011 film directed by Christian Petzold "Beats Being Dead," the first in the "Dreileben" trilogy, in an undated handout photo. The film will be featured at the New York Film Festival, which starts Friday.

(New York Film Festival)

MANOHLA DARGIS

© 2011 New York Times

**NEW YORK** – Is more more? Is it better? Moviegoers may be wondering the same thing when faced with the astonishment of offerings in this year's New York Film Festival. In addition to a main slate dotted with some of cinema's brightest stars – Michelle Williams! Bela Tarr! – this year there are screenings of old goodies like Charlie Chaplin's "Gold Rush"; a documentary program; dozens of hot-off-the-iMac avant-garde attractions; a 37-title tribute to the Japanese studio Nikkatsu; and free talks with movers and shakers.

If that sounds like a lot of movies, it is: 18 percent more, in fact, than in the 2010 edition. Now in its 49th year, the festival – which begins on Friday and runs through Oct. 16 – isn't creaking toward its golden anniversary: It's sprinting, if also zigging and zagging and taking some curious detours.

For longtime festival watchers, it's obvious what an auteurist triumph like Tarr's "Turin Horse," a serious new work for adventurous filmgoers, is doing in the main slate. Less obvious is why the director Kevin Smith will present the W.D. Richter 1984 cult item, "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension," especially since he already hosts a bimonthly series at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, which runs the festival.



From left: Jodie Foster, John C. Reilly, Christoph Waltz and Kate Winslet in a scene from Roman Polanski's "Carnage" in an undated handout photo. The film will be featured at the New York Film Festival, which starts Friday.

(Guy Ferrandis/Sony Pictures Classics)

Then again, considering the ambition and scope of this year's event, it's apparent the festival is determined to grab the city's attention and perhaps ditch its reputation as the Tribeca's stodgier uptown counterpart.

This year there's something for everyone at the New York Film Festival, including some cheaper seats. A ticket for any movies in the main slate will set a non-Film Society member back \$20 to \$24. (The galas are pricier.) But if you want to take the children to see a retrospective screening of William Wyler's "Ben-Hur" or Hayao Miyazaki's "Spirited Away," you can take advantage of the "family friendly" prices and pay \$10 for the tots. And if you want to rock their little worlds without breaking the bank, you can always stick to less expensive sidebars like Views From the Avant-Garde.

As usual, the highest-profile

titles are in the main selection, including the opener, Roman Polanski's "Carnage" (George versus Martha times two); the centerpiece (Simon Curtis' "My Week With Marilyn," starring Williams as Marilyn Monroe); and the closer (Alexander Payne's "Descendants," with George Clooney as a Hawaiian patriarch). All but "Marilyn" have played at other festivals, as have the two galas: "A Dangerous Method," from David Cronenberg (about when Dr. Jung met Dr. Freud and a troublesome little something called female desire),

and "The Skin I Live In," which finds Pedro Almodóvar playfully sampling Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" and Georges Franju's "Eyes Without a Face," among other influences.

Set in Brooklyn and shot in a French studio, it stars Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly (in a role originated on Broadway by a more menacing James Gandolfini) as a couple who shake off their civilizing ways after their son is attacked by the spawn of another pair of parental beasts (Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz). The play and its ideas remain as substantial as a soggy tissue, but the talk and action are fluid, the mood menacing – Polanski, as evident from films like "Rosemary's Baby," has a feel for domestic horror – and the cast is very fine. Particularly outstanding is Foster, whose gargoyles could adorn Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the suave, sensational Waltz. □



# Russell Brand to be first guest on the 'Rosie' show



Oprah Winfrey, left, and Rosie O'Donnell talk to the media outside Harpo Studios in Chicago before unveiling a new sign to welcome "The Rosie Show". "O'Donnell gets her wish: Russell Brand will be the first guest on her new talk show."

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Rosie O'Donnell gets her wish: Russell Brand will be the first guest on her new talk show. The Oprah Winfrey Network announced Thursday that the comedian and actor will appear on the Oct. 10 premiere of "The Rosie Show."

O'Donnell has said she's fascinated with Brand and called him a genius. She previously said she would love to have him as her first guest.

The show will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network, which promises Brand will be "one of many notable celebrities" during the show's first two weeks.

O'Donnell will tape in Chicago's Harpo Studios, former home of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" until it ended in May after 25 years.

Brand was featured in the movies "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," "Get Him to the Greek" and "Arthur." □

## Sylvia Robinson, early hip-hop pioneer, dies

**NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**

**AP Music Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The woman some call the mother of hip-hop has died.

Sylvia Robinson, who had a hit as a singer-songwriter with the sexually charged "Pillow Talk" but was later known as one of hip-hop's early founders as the record label owner that put out "Rapper's Delight," rap's first mainstream success, died Thursday, according to publicist Greg Walker. She was 76. Robinson, born Sylvia Vanterpool, died of congestive heart failure at the New Jersey Institute of Neuroscience in Seacacus, New Jersey. Along with

her late husband, Joe, Robinson was the owner of Sugar Hill Records. In 1979, it released the song that would become widely known as rap's first hit, "Rapper's Delight," by the Sugar Hill Gang. The song was released as hip-hop was just beginning to emerge as a genre; for the most part, it was a budding phenomenon bubbling on New York City streets. Robinson recognized the potential of the music and wanted her struggling label to capitalize on it. "She saw where a DJ was talking and the crowd was responding to what he was saying, and this was the first time she

ever saw this before," her son Joey said in a 2000 interview with NPR. "And she said Joey, wouldn't this be a great idea to make a rap record?"

It turned out she was right. After gathering three rappers (Master Gee, Wonder Mike and Big Bank Hank) to record the 15-minute song, the party groove became a sensation.

The condensed version was considered the first rap song to get radio play and reached the top 40 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. The Sugar Hill Gang faded into rap history, not recording other songs that would match its original flourish. □

## Destiny's Child: Where are they now?

**Joey Guerra**

© 2010 Houston Chronicle

When Beyonce Knowles unveiled her baby bump at last month's MTV Video Music Awards, reaction ranged from elation to shock. But somewhere, perhaps in a plush office atop a corporate high-rise, a record exec might have had a single, shimmering thought: Destiny's Child - rebooted. The girl group, after all, had several incarnations during its successful eight-year run. After it disbanded in 2005, the final lineup - Knowles, Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams - reunited for a performance at the 2006 NBA All-Star Game in Houston and have since popped up together at various events. But all the members - original and replacements alike - continue to live in the shadow of Queen B, who has become one of music's preeminent pop stars.

So say their names, if you remember, and reacquaint yourself with Destiny's other children: Kelly Rowland: She's yet to ascend to the top of the A list, but Rowland is a star in her own right. Her debut solo disc, 2002's "Simply Deep", resulted in the massive hit "Dilemma" with rapper Nelly. She followed up with 2007's "Ms. Kelly" and this year's "Here I Am", which spawned R&B chart-topper "Motivation". Rowland has also become a dance diva, filling floors with the anthemic "When Love Takes Over" and "Commander", collaborations with David Guetta. She's also tried her hand at acting in the films "Freddy vs. Jason" and "The Seat Filler" and is currently a judge on the United Kingdom version of "The X Factor". Michelle Williams: Gospel music was Williams' first calling as a solo act, which resulted in the albums "Heart to Yours" (2002) and "Do You Know" (2004). But she eventually turned to more adventurous ventures. Williams is the only member of Destiny's



Beyonce, a former member of Destiny's Child (AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

Child to tackle Broadway, popping up in title roles in the musicals "Aida" and "Chicago", which also took her to London's West End. She also toured with "The Color Purple" and competed on "Strictly Come Dancing", the British version of "Dancing With the Stars". Williams' 2008 album, "Unexpected", spawned a pair of big club hits, and a new collection of inspirational pop and dance is due this winter. LeToya Luckett: "The H-Town Chick" was featured on two Destiny's Child albums before getting the boot. (The last was the eerily titled "The Writing's on the Wall" in 1999. Luckett and LaTavia Roberson tried to oust Mathew Knowles, Beyonce's father as their manager, which resulted in their own unceremonious exits. (They were replaced by Williams and, briefly, Farrah Franklin.) The two filed lawsuits against Knowles and the group. Insults and accusations followed, and a settlement was eventually reached. Luckett and Roberson formed the group Anjel, but it went nowhere. Luckett's solo work has been more warmly received. Her solo debut, "LeToya", topped the Billboard 200 in 2006 and was certified platinum on the strength of hit single "Torn". A second album, "Lady Love", followed in 2009. Luckett starred in the films "Preacher's Kid" and "Killers", and she had a recurring role on the HBO series "Treme". □



## Just look at what you did!



**NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**  
© 2011 New York Times

In a Mother's Day column in the spring, I suggested that readers commemorate the day not only with flowers but also with a donation to lift up women around the world. Readers showered one group that I mentioned, [www.MothersDayMovement.org](http://www.MothersDayMovement.org), with more than \$135,000 that was forwarded to a slum empowerment group in Kenya. So while in Kenya recently, I dropped by to see what was being done with your money. In the grim alleys of the Kibera slum in the capital of Nairobi, I found a dazzling girls' school being built with some of those donations – and, yes, I found a love story.

The saga begins with a young man named Kennedy Odede who grew up in the slum. He never received a formal education and lived homeless on the streets after the age of 10, but he was exceptionally bright and taught himself to read. When he was about 15, a visiting American gave him a book about Nelson Mandela – a biography that captivated Kennedy. Another U.S. visitor, charmed by hearing of the impact of the first book, gave him a biography of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"That book changed my life," Kennedy recalls. Dazzled by Mandela and King, Kennedy resolved to fight for social justice. Already active in Kibera, he bought a soccer ball and announced the formation of a youth soccer club that would wrestle with social issues. Kennedy had become outraged at the abuse of women, partly because his 16-year-old sister had been raped and become pregnant. So his soccer club began to hold street theater performances to denounce sexual violence.

Jessica Posner, a Wesleyan University student interested in theater, heard about the performances and decided to spend a junior year abroad helping the group. She arrived in Nairobi – and then insisted on living inside the Kibera slum itself. "I thought she was crazy," Kennedy remembers. He told her that there was no indoor toilet or running water, and plenty of rats. She is white, and Kennedy told her that no white people lived anywhere nearby. But Jessica got her way, sharing a room with four other people – and a romance blossomed. Kennedy told Jessica of his dream to get an education,

and Jessica nudged the Wesleyan admissions office into offering him a full scholarship – even though he had never gone to formal school before.

So Kennedy flew to Connecticut to begin college as a freshman at the age of 23, and, after her graduation, Jessica flew out to Nairobi to help expand his program, called Shining Hope for Communities ([ShiningHopeforCommunities.org](http://ShiningHopeforCommunities.org)). They won grants from Newman's Own Foundation, Echoing Green and DoSomething.org, and they used the money and Jessica's savings to start the Kibera School for Girls.

Jessica, now 25, showed me around – chattering with local people in the Swahili and Luo languages. It's staggering what she and Kennedy have created. The Kibera School for Girls now has 64 students in pre-kindergarten through second grade, adding one grade a year. Almost 500 children competed for the 19 slots in the current pre-kindergarten.

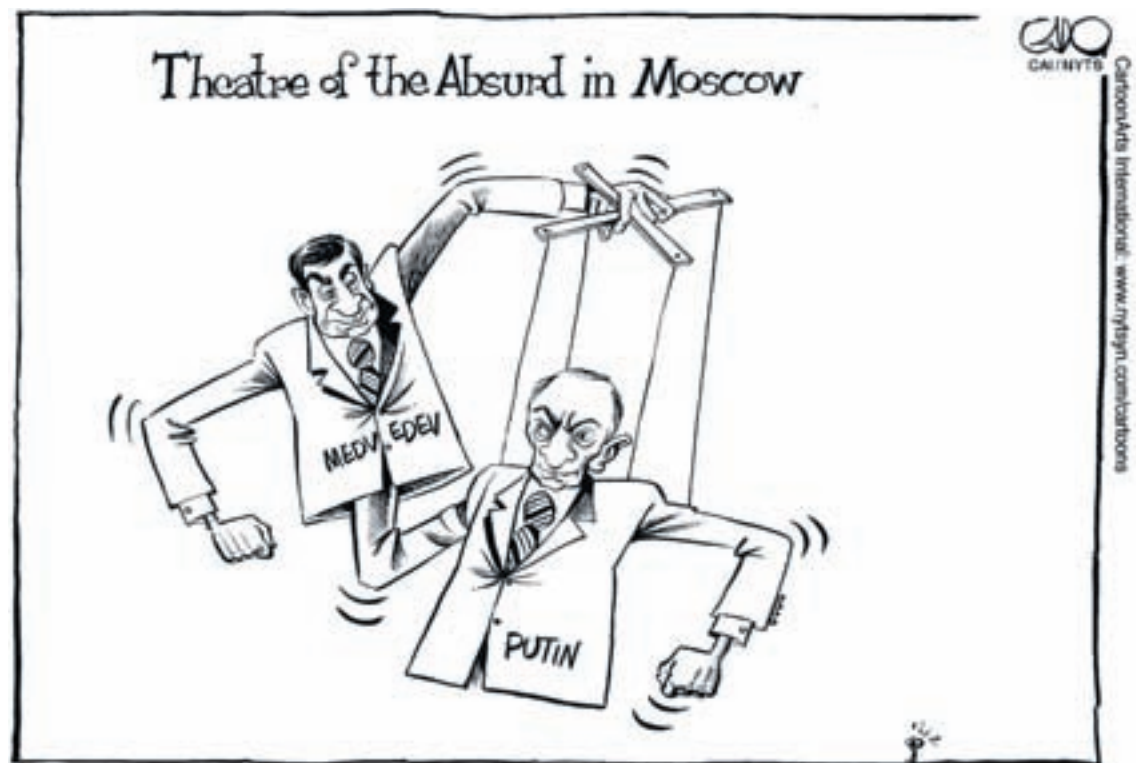
The school looks like a good U.S. school, and classes are taught in English. Even though English is a second or third language for these children, 82 percent perform at U.S. grade level – and these kids are ravenous to learn.

"Some of the first- and second-graders are reading at seventh-grade level," Jessica said proudly. Still, obstacles are enormous. This broke my heart: At least 20 percent of the girls have been raped, the teachers say. Rapes have left two of the kindergarten girls with fistulas, internal injuries causing them to leak wastes.

The school has helped prosecute an alleged rapist of a 4-year-old kindergartner who required surgical repairs and is working to end the impunity on sexual violence in the community. It also provides a dormitory for half-a-dozen girls who are at risk of sexual violence in their own homes.

With the money from Times readers, Shining Hope is now building a much larger school that is expected to accommodate 500 pupils. It has also bolstered services, including free family planning, for women at a clinic it runs. It trains women entrepreneurs and has just installed a new water tower that is expected to become the slum's largest source of clean water. It operates a public library and computer center where slum-dwellers can earn money by performing Internet piece work. Shining Hope also oversees a network of public toilets, one of which produces biogas used to cook meals for children at the school.

All this may be just a beginning. Kennedy says his dream is to expand Shining Hope across East Africa. So that's what your money has wrought. You should be proud. And one more thing to make the story perfect: In June, after Kennedy graduates, he and Jessica plan to marry. □



## Happy tidings from the hill



**GAIL COLLINS**  
© 2011 New York Times

In our never-ending battle to bring you good news from the world of politics, let's focus today on the fact that Congress appears to have reached a deal to keep the government operating for seven more weeks.

Think of all the things you'll be able to do in October if there's a government. Camp out in a national park! Mail a letter! Fly to Omaha without fear that your plane will crash into a plane flying to Sioux Falls because of a lack of air traffic controllers! Wage war in Afghanistan! Life doesn't get any better than that. The latest stalemate in Washington has been over the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which had been running out of cash what with all the recent fires, floods, earthquakes, plagues of frogs and what have you. Republicans wanted to balance any new FEMA money with cuts elsewhere. Democrats said that when disaster strikes, the tradition is to pony up and deal with the financing issues later. Republicans said yeah, and that's how we wound up \$14.7 trillion in the hole, and then the Democrats said no way, we got the hole from the Bush tax cuts and then the Republicans kicked them in the groin and everybody had to go to the emergency room.

OK, I can hear you all asking: Whatever happened to Willow the

cat?

Willow, you may remember, disappeared from her home in Colorado five years ago and turned up recently in a shelter in New York City. Now that was a feel-good story. Her whole family was flown to New York to appear on the "Today" show for a reunion. Why can't Congress ever do things like that?

Back to Congress: The government's fiscal year ends this weekend, and FEMA decided it could make it to Saturday on spare cash that it had found in the sofa. Whew. The Senate then voted 79-12 to keep the government running for the following seven weeks. "It shows us the way out. It means we no longer have to fight," said Harry Reid, in a deeply uncharacteristic show of euphoria. You may be wondering about the 12 people who voted against this idea. They were all Republicans, and their most common argument was that they just wanted to make things work better. "Americans are tired of gridlock and games in Washington, and so am I," said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri in a press release. Way to battle gridlock, Sen. Roy Blunt!

Marco Rubio of Florida, who is constantly being mentioned as a possible vice presidential candidate in the event the Republicans ever find someone to nominate for president, said that he had voted against the bill because he wanted to protest "this dysfunctional Washington way" of running the government. This is a little like protesting the slowness of rush-hour traffic by abandoning your car in the center lane.

But back to Willow the cat. During one of her TV reunions, Willow bit her owners' 3-year-old daughter. In the flesh, Willow looked pretty standoffish. We might as well have been celebrating the return of a long-lost goldfish. Maybe she liked living in New York.

Meanwhile, the bill to keep the government operating for seven weeks now goes to the House, where it's expected to pass. Probably. They think.

But wait! There's more! Remember when I told you the current fiscal year ends this weekend? (It was a few paragraphs back, before Willow bit the 3-year-old.) Congress is on vacation. So in order to get us through the gap, the Senate passed yet another spending bill, this one to keep things running for four days.

That was on a voice vote, depriving anybody of the opportunity to take a strong, principled public stance against having government on Saturday.

It now goes to the House, where in one of those parliamentary thingies that drive us all to discussions of missing cats or the possible breakup of Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, the bill is supposed to be passed on Thursday in an empty chamber.

If a single representative shows up and objects, the four-day funding bill is dead and the government shuts down this weekend. But, of course, what would make anyone think that there could be a member of the House of Representatives crazy enough to make the trip back to Washington just to bring the entire federal government to a crashing halt?

"Actually, we're holding our breath," said one House staffer, who claimed that the Republican leadership had made a list of the most free-spirited members of the Tea Party cadre and got commitments from everyone to get through the weekend with the Grand Canyon open for business. Which, if it works, would be pretty good news, don't you think? No one in the House of Representatives actually wants to single-handedly shut government down in its tracks.

Ever lower, goes the bar. □



# The party goes on at Balmain



French actress Lou Doillon, right, watches a creation designed by French fashion designer Olivier Rousteing for Balmain's spring-summer 2012 ready to wear collection presented Thursday Sept. 29, 2011 in Paris.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

## JENNY BARCHFIELD

### AP Fashion Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — The jet-set party girls of the world breathed an audible sigh on relief Thursday, as the new designer at their go-to label for ultra short, expensive and fabulous clothes — Balmain — proved he wouldn't meddle with the label's tried and true recipe for success.

Olivier Rousteing gave the

girls what they want with his debut, the spring-summer 2012 ready-to-wear collection — minidresses that were drowning in gold, sequins, chains and studs, and little jackets with big, square shoulders.

Fashion was an altogether more ladylike affair at Nina Ricci and Carven. Lace and chiffon were the fabrics of choice at Nina Ricci, where designer Peter Cop-

ping continued to hone his vision of proper, old-school feminine dressing.

Carven also had a retro air about it, but clearly designer Guillaume Henry has his eyes on a different, markedly younger, demographic — hence the sky-high hemlines on his flippy skirts. Rick Owens was on the other end of the hemline spectrum, with long lean looks of an otherworldly beauty. The big disappointment of day three of Paris' nine-day-long ready-to-wear marathon was Manish Arora, the madly inventive Indian designer whose creative cacophony failed this season to coalesce into a coherent collection.

The shows move into day four on Friday with displays by the ever-electrifying Paris label Lanvin, experimental house Maison Martin Margiela and Dior, the luxury supernova which has been without a creative director since John Galliano was summarily sacked last March for making anti-Semitic and racist slurs.

Dior's head of studio and longtime Galliano collaborator Bill Gaytten was behind the critically panned couture collection presented in July, and anticipation was rising ahead of Friday's show — with many industry insiders (gleefully) predicting the worst.

## BALMAIN

The continuity was seamless.

With his debut as Balmain's designer, Rousteing remained true to the rock 'n' roll shapes that are now the label's trademark, sending out the second-skin dresses and blazers with power shoulders that have become the uniform of jet-set party girls with endless legs and even longer credit lines the world over.

Covered in glinting crystals, bulky gold embroidery and metalwork, and hung with a fringe of chains, the clothes looked so heavy it was a wonder the paper-thin models made it around the runway.

Thursday's show was déjà vu all over again — which, when you're a commercial



A model wears a creation by Ireland-born fashion designer Sharon Wauchob for her spring-summer 2012 ready-to-wear collection presented Thursday Sept. 29, 2011 in Paris.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

success on the scale of Balmain, is a good thing.

Six months ago, the future of the brand looked anything but certain: When designer Christophe Decarnin, the man responsible for reviving the storied label after a long period of decline in the 1980s and '90s, failed to show up for last season's runway show, many in the industry worried about who would succeed him.

With Thursday's collection, Rousteing — who was promoted from within weeks after Decarnin's no-show —

put those doubts to rest and proved he has what it takes to keep those Balmain cash tills cha-chinging.

## RICK OWENS

Like ethereal extraterrestrials, Owens' women floated down the catwalk in long, lean column dresses with dramatic drapery that billowed in their disembodied wake.

The Californian designer has long been a critical favorite in Paris, and Thursday's show once again exceeded expectations. □



A model wears a creation by German fashion designer Lutz for his spring-summer 2012 ready to wear collection, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, in Paris.

(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)



A model wears a creation by Ireland-born fashion designer Sharon Wauchob for her spring-summer 2012 ready-to-wear collection presented Thursday Sept. 29, 2011 in Paris.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)